

The Meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 8th February 2024 when there were present:

Councillors: M Gillespie, V Armstrong, S Burditt, A Clifford, P Cornforth, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, K McGovern, P Mount, S Palmer, K Pearce, W Read, M Smith, J Thacker and S Turner.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Also in attendance was Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore.

2023/24 185. To receive apologies for absence, if any
Apologies were received from Cllr P Servadei.

2023/24 186. To receive disclosures of interest and to consider any requests for dispensation
Cllr A Clifford declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in Blaby District Council (BDC).

Regarding item 2023/24 200, Councillor A Clifford asked for it to be recorded that he has not attended any Planning Committee meetings or made any comments regarding the Parish Council's response to the Planning Applications.

2023/24 187. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 11th January 2024
Minutes of the meeting held 11th January 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2023/24 188. To consider applications for the Councillor vacancies
There were no applications received.

2023/24 189. To report any matters arising for information purposes only
It was reported that Leicestershire County Council had confirmed that it would be carrying out works in an attempt to reduce incidents of vehicles travelling the wrong way along Central Street. Proposals included the installation of 'no right turn' signage and 'no entry' road markings.

Following the recent Notice of Temporary Traffic Regulation Order which had been received from Leicestershire County Council regarding the mains replacement to be undertaken by Cadent Gas, further communication had been received, advising that a marquee event would be scheduled to allow residents and businesses the opportunity to ask questions.

2023/24 190. To appoint representatives to Committees, Working Parties and outside bodies, and discuss terms of reference for the Committees and Working Parties
There was nothing to discuss.

2023/24 191. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors
Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, advised that there was not yet any update regarding the investigation being conducted following the incident of local flooding at the beginning of January 2024, the gas outage caused by a burst water main in Kirby Muxloe and Ratby remains a priority at present. He also advised that, following confirmation of the additional signage to be installed on Central Street, signage at other junctions would also be assessed.

Blaby District Councillor, A Clifford, commented on the mains replacement works to be completed in the village by Cadent Gas, advising that the works are estimated to take up to 9 months to complete and that he is currently waiting for a schedule of works which he would share with the Parish Council once received. It was resolved that a letter of concern would be submitted to Cadent Gas.

Cllr M Gillespie had provided a report on the recent Police and Crime Commissioner surgery which had been attended. This had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

2023/24 192. Public participation session

There were no members of the public present.

2023/24 193. To discuss police matters

Cllr K McGovern provided an update on local police matters including a report from Blaby Police, via their facebook page, that the local beat surgery held in the Library on 22nd January was well attended with many issues raised, specifically, local parking. Additionally, it was recounted that recent crime data provided by Blaby for November 2023 showed that, throughout Countesthorpe, Foston and Kilby, there were 22 reported crimes with 20 of those occurring in Countesthorpe.

It was further reported that Leicestershire Police currently have campaigns running and that there has been a public pledge introduced, reaffirming the commitment to serve the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

There was discussion regarding local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with it being resolved that the Parish Council would not be involved in promoting local schemes since they require residents to take a lead.

Cllr S Palmer queried with Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, whether there was any update on the possibility of local officers utilising speed guns locally. This would be taken forward for further consideration.

2023/24 194. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during January 2024 was received.

Cllr A Clifford reconfirmed that the next Youth Conference would be held on Thursday 29th February 2024, with Cllrs V Armstrong, S Burditt and C Ibbotson confirming their attendance.

2023/24 195. To approve accounts for payment as verified by the Finance Working Party

It was resolved to approve the following Direct Debit and Business Card accounts for payment:

Parish Council			
	£		£
Automated Garage Doors	900.00	ESPO	830.05
Lloyds Bank	23.19	Clover International Marketplace	23.00
BNP Paribas	312.00	Water-plus	31.84
Water-plus	314.33	IRIS Business Software Ltd	13.32
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	834.01	Wages	15428.23
Leicestershire County Council	5910.92	HMRC	4308.35
Lloyds Bank	27.80	ElemenTel	233.98
Lost World Demolition	10794.00	Smith of Derby	1714.56
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	1474.56	Young Leicestershire Ltd	2043.84
Young Leicestershire Ltd	2043.84	Enva England Ltd	610.25
Alexandra (Mi Hub Ltd)	83.10	Tudor Environmental	134.03
Automatic Access Ltd	330.00	Guardian Support	859.46
SNJ Cleaning Services	30.00	Skillbase Training	645.60
ESPO	101.16	Blaby District Council	1924.01
Oakberry Trees Ltd	859.92	Community Heartbeat	56.34
Moles Seeds (UK) Ltd	95.64	Chandlers Farm Equipment	176.62
Chempac Solutions	102.90	Petersfield Growing Mediums	381.96
IRIS Business Software Ltd	432.70	Gallagher Insurance	56.00
Blaby Building Supplies	82.32		
Total			54224.07

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	500.00	LD Plumbing & Heating Services	216.00

WJG Maynard Ltd	85.00	Systematic	18.20
Libra Drinks	448.39		
		Total	1267.59

It was resolved that the Salary, Pension and HMRC payments for January 2024 were approved.

2023/24 196. To receive any correspondence

- a. It was noted that details of appropriate, local groups had been sent to Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust following correspondence received from the Mental Health Team advising that they are working to create a platform where the groups facilitators can work collaboratively.
- b. The Parish and Communities Update from Leicestershire County Council had been received and circulated for information.
- c. Correspondence had been received from Blaby District Council's Community Services Team advising that they are looking to organise drop in surgeries for residents within the community, focussing on energy advice and the cost of living. It was noted that the Library space had been offered by the Parish Council to host a drop in, however, it was resolved to liaise with the team to schedule a session which would allow enough time for it to be advertised in The Herald.
- d. Leicestershire County Council's Sustainable Travel & Transport Team had emailed correspondence regarding promoting the Leicestershire Local Access Forum at a community level.

2023/24 197. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 5th February 2024

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held 5th February 2024 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To submit, to Blaby District Council, the application for the installation of cremation plots in the new cemetery, using the remaining £7100 of the S106 contribution allocated from the Gillam Butts application, to be used by November 2024. Also, once approved, to proceed with the installation of ten rows of cremation plots in the new cemetery, five of which would be located at the top of the cemetery, near the car park, and five at the bottom, to allow individuals a choice of location*
- *To proceed with consulting those residents in the vicinity of Leysland Play Area, regarding the below options for the slide located on its outskirts, and to provide costings and considerations, in order for an informed choice to be made*
 - . *Remove the slide*
 - . *Reposition the slide by swapping with another piece of equipment in the play area*
 - . *Screen the slide by planting at various points outside the fence line*
 - . *Leave the slide as it is*
- *To proceed with replacing a damaged litter bin on Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £388.95*
- *To proceed with placing the order for the removal of the large fruit tree, located on open space on Skye Way, at a cost of £483.33*
- *To proceed with the most cost effective option for resurfacing works required underneath the basket swing at Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £1807.08*
- *To proceed with replacing an additional part on the zipwire, as identified during the two*
- *yearly inspection and necessary to complete the inspection fully, at a cost of £463.00*

2023/24 198. To report and approve the recommendations from the Community Engagement Working Party meeting held 29th January 2024

The report of the Community Engagement Working Party meeting held 29th January 2024 was received and the report adopted.

2023/24 199. To report and approve the recommendations from the D-Day meeting held 30th January 2024

The report of the meeting to discuss the 80th Anniversary of D-Day held 30th January 2024 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To proceed with a small remembrance/thanksgiving ceremonial event on the evening of Thursday 6th June 2024 from 7pm until 8.30pm. For the event to be opened with church bells and a reading/opening prayer. For there to be music playing whilst residents contribute to and spend time looking at a beacon/white poppy display/memory board – details of which are yet to be discussed and finalised. For there to be proclamations read, in line with national guidelines*
- *To make enquiries with the following groups to ask if they would like to be involved:*
 - . *Countesthorpe Festival Choir*
 - . *Ukrainian Choir*
 - . *Greenfield School Choir*
- *To proceed with only the following methods of publicity to promote the event:*
 - . *To advertise in the March edition of The Herald*
 - . *To issue invites to residents of Brook Court Care Home and Cherry Tree Care Home*
 - . *To create a leaflet to advertise the event, to be distributed to Countesthorpe U3A and local schools*
 - . *To create a poster to advertise the event, to be distributed in local shops and via Parish Council noticeboards, website and facebook as well as Countesthorpe Library*

2023/24 200. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 25th January 2024, 1st February 2024 and 8th February 2024

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 25th January 2024, 1st February 2024 and 8th February 2024 were received.

2023/24 201. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 7th February 2024

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 7th February 2024 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To approve the action of the Parish Council Manager in proceeding with placing the order for a new garage door, at a total cost of £3600*
- *To proceed with the recommendations made by Secom, following the latest fire inspection, to replace the fire panel and install two additional call points in the main hall store room and the cellar, at a cost of £1679*
- *To proceed with the following recommendations of the Estates Working Party:*
 - . *To replace the damaged litter bin on Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £388.95*
 - . *To place the order for the removal of the large fruit tree, located on open space on Skye Way, at a cost of £483.33*
 - . *To place the order for resurfacing works required underneath the basket swing at Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £1807.08*
 - . *To replace an additional part on the zipwire, the aerial runway adjuster arm, as necessary to be able to complete the service, at an additional cost of £463.00*

2023/24 201. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

It was noted that Blaby District Council had been contacted to confirm that Countesthorpe Parish Council would wish to be involved in providing support to future plans once themselves and Leicestershire County Council had evaluated the response to the January flooding incident.

2023/24 202. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2024