

The Meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 when there were present:

Councillors: M Gillespie, V Armstrong, R Bayliss, P Cornforth, S Burditt, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, P Mount, S Palmer, K Pearce, W Read, D Shuttleworth, P Servdei, M Smith, J Thacker and S Turner.

Also in attendance was Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge and five members of the public.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

2024/25 161. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Clifford and K McGovern.

2024/25 162. To receive disclosures of interest and to consider any requests for dispensation

Cllr R Bayliss declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in Blaby District Council (BDC) and Cllr M Smith declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in The Countesthorpe Herald, discussed under item 2024/25 176.

2024/25 163. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2024/25 164. 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.

2024/25 165. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, reported that the recent flooding had taken priority for both Leicestershire County Council and Blaby District Council over the past week with actions still ongoing as a result. He advised that, although no funding had yet been confirmed, there was funding still available following Storm Henk at the beginning of 2024, for any residents affected who have not previously applied.

In response to a Councillor query, it was also confirmed that the possibility of a gauge to be installed at Crow Mills to alert people to the water depth would be investigated.

L Phillimore also advised that Leicestershire County Council had submitted an expression of interest in response to the proposed Local Government Reform.

2024/25 166. Public participation session

There were five members of the public present who wished to discuss the cause and effect of the recent flooding in Countesthorpe.

2024/25 167. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

There were no matters arising.

2024/25 168. To discuss police matters

The Parish Council Manager provided an update on local police matters, advising that there was a new PCSO in post called Kirsty Reid who would be introducing herself to the Parish Council office shortly. It was also noted that the next Police Beat Surgery was scheduled to take place in the Library on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January between 10am and 11am and that this would be publicised to residents.

Cllr S Kinvig reported also that there had been an increased police presence recently in response to a number of burglaries which were reportedly on the rise across the district.

2024/25 169. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

There was no monthly report as the youth workers had been on their winter break.

2024/25 170. 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			
	£		£
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	98.18	ESPO	536.72
Gallagher Insurance	2332.33	Lloyds Bank	17.98
LRALC	35.00	Water-plus	361.52
Amazon	11.39	Amazon	6.95
Lloyds Bank	31.29	CustomGiftCouk	21.27
Safety Services Direct	120.00	HMRC	4736.56
Leicestershire County Council	6247.93	Wages	18,262.56
BNP Paribas	312.00	Coltman Bros	382.68
Alexandra (Mi Hub Ltd)	158.80	Earlsmere	776.40
RCD Electrical Services	84.00	ESPO	187.20
Blaby Building Supplies	19.68	J Leech	182.55
Water-plus	32.05	ElemenTel	250.36
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	521.34	Lloyds Bank	44.88
Clover International Marketplace	23.00	VisionICT	240.00
Palmers Garden Centre	57.00	Fuel Genie	54.43
Staffology IRIS	36.00	Favells Garage	219.57
IT Solutions	475.20	Coltman Bros	58.51
Chandlers	8.50		
Total			36,943.83

Village Hall			
	£		£
ESPO	258.24		
Total			258.24

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

2024/25 171. To note the corrections made arising from the Internal Audit

It was noted that the six monthly internal audit had highlighted that pages 6706-6710 of the minutes had not been signed and therefore the council approved for the Chairman to sign the pages accordingly as an accurate record.

2024/25 172. To adopt the proposed budget and precept requirement for 2025/2026

It was resolved to set a budget of £493,799 for 2025-2026. It was resolved to send a precept request to Blaby District Council for the sum of £454,328. This equates to £175.68 per year for each Band D dwelling, an increase of £11.12 per annum or 6.76%.

2024/25 173. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2024/25 174. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The Estates Working Party meeting scheduled to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 had been cancelled due to the flooding incident. The following items which required immediate action were discussed and approved:

- To obtain advice and costings from Beddow Tree Specialists as well as a local builder with regards to a damaged pathway in the closed Churchyard, suspected to be caused by tree roots
- To request that Blaby District Council reinstate the dog waste bin at Stroma Way

2024/25 175. To receive the report from the Planning Committee meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was received.

2024/25 176. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was received and the report adopted. It was resolved to approve the following actions, further to the recommendations of the Finance Working Party being received and discussed.

- *To obtain additional information regarding the use of electrical grounds equipment from other Parishes as well as warranty information from the supplier, prior to a decision being made regarding the replacement of three items of equipment which were flagged in the recent HAVs testing*
- *For the proposed budget and precept requirement of £454,328 for 2025/2026 to be approved and adopted*
- *For the asset register to be approved and adopted*
- *To award a grant of £500 to The Countesthorpe Herald in order to aid the replenishment of its working reserve, and to request they reapply for a further £500 towards the end of the financial year when it would be reviewed once more*
- *A Councillor, other than the Chairman or bank signatory will be appointed to verify the bank reconciliations for all accounts for October to December 2024 that been produced by the Parish Manager. Arrangements will be made for Councillor K McGovern to carry out a check from payments made against the bank statement and bank reconciliation for payments made to December 2024.*

2024/25 177. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

There were no matters to raise.

2024/25 178. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2025