

The Meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 when there were present:

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

Also in attendance was Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, and Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

The meeting was chaired by Cllr M Smith.

2024/25 196. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Clifford, M Gillespie and P Servadei.

2024/25 197. 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).

2024/25 198. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2024/25 199. To appoint representatives to Committees, Working Parties and outside bodies, and discuss Terms of Reference for the Committees and Working Parties

It was resolved to adopt the amended Village Hall Management Committee Terms of Reference.

2024/25 200. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge, advised that there was no update regarding Bouskell Park and also reported on the Youth Conference which had taken place towards the end of February, confirming that Countesthorpe was well represented.

There were queries regarding fencing around balancing ponds, with it being confirmed that the recent fencing installed around ponds on the County Park had been funded via a grant and the ongoing maintenance would be undertaken by Blaby District Council. Enquiries would be made regarding who is responsible for maintaining the ponds. Further to this, safety measures regarding proposed balancing ponds on the housing development off Willoughby Road would be referred to in response to the Reserved Matters application, once received.

Cllr S Palmer queried whether Blaby District Councillors could put forward the request of the Parish Council that any notable project which is to be undertaken within Countesthorpe is communicated to the Parish Council ahead of being actioned in order for Councillors to be better prepared when responding to the queries of residents.

2024/25 201. Public participation session

There were no public present.

2024/25 202. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

a. Feedback from the Local Flood Authority, Leicestershire County Council

The initial response from Leicestershire County Council's Flood Risk Management Officer to the Parish Council's correspondence regarding the flooding which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> January was received. It was noted that they would be submitting a more detailed response in due course when they had investigated the matters raised by the Parish Council. The issue with regard to Winchester Road becoming impassable had been forwarded to the Highways Department.

A summary from the meeting which had been hosted by Leicestershire County Councillor Les Phillimore for residents from Mennecy Homes, to enable Davidsons Homes to make a presentation on the proposed flood attenuation scheme at the Willoughby Road development, had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Parish Councillors M Gillespie, M Smith and S Kinvig had been invited to the meeting to represent the Parish Council. Cllr L Phillimore confirmed that any actions which were undertaken as a result of this would be fed back to the Parish Council Manager and those residents who attended.

It was noted also that Blaby District Council were organising a flooding drop-in event on 27<sup>th</sup> March between 2pm and 7pm, although no advertising of the event had yet taken place.

2024/25 203. To discuss police matters

Cllr K McGovern provided an update on local police matters, including that, unfortunately, the latest scheduled beat surgery had been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and no date had yet been set for its rescheduling. It was resolved also to reinvite the new PCSO to a future Parish Council meeting.

2024/25 204. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during February 2025 was received. It was noted also that an article, including photographs of the youth workers, was being put together for inclusion in a future edition of The Herald.

The request of Cllr S Palmer, for the youth workers to visit the green on Rosebank Road during the spring/summer months, would be forwarded to Young Leicestershire.

2024/25 205. 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			
	£		£
BNP Paribas	312.00	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	92.10
Lloyds Bank	16.93	HMRC	4505.34
Leicestershire County Council	6247.93	Clover International Marketplace	23.00
Lloyds Bank	50.71	Water-plus	33.12
Wages	16,484.65	ElemenTel	250.36
W E Hewitt and Son Ltd	827.64	Goscote Nurseries	85.70
Fuel Genie	113.07	KIWA Ltd	2460.00
Improvement & Development Agency	561.60	Secom Plc	135.30
Leicestershire Toilet Hire Ltd	282.00	E H Smith	125.04
Coltman Bros	75.04	Chandlers Farm Equipment	114.89
Lakul Telecommunications	420.17	Staffology Iris Payroll	31.20
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	439.66	ElemenTel	6759.93
Blaby District Council	6362.25	Blaby District Council	3818.29
Blaby District Council	1671.65	Goscote Nurseries	60.00
Brandon Tool Hire	78.73	Chandlers Farm Equipment	272.52
Guardian Support	1003.20		
Total			53,309.92

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	450.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	418.08
Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	377.72	System-Matic Ltd	154.30
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	92.10	SNJ Cleaning Services	30.00
Morgans Locksmiths	57.84		
Total			1580.04

It was resolved that the Salary, Pension and HMRC payments for February 2025 were approved.

2024/25 206. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2024/25 207. Local Government reorganisation

a. To receive correspondence from Blaby District Council inviting comments on its proposed submission

It was resolved not to respond to Blaby District Council's request for comments on its proposed submission in response to the Local Government reorganisation as it was not felt that enough information had yet been provided for an informed response to be considered.

It was further resolved to refer a 'Parish Partnerships' newsletter to both the Estates Working Party and Strategy, Planning and Policy Committee for review. This would also be circulated to all Councillors for information.

2024/25 208. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To proceed with purchasing godfather posts and post mix to repair the fence at Dale Acre Play Area at a cost of £207.36*
- *To proceed with replacing damaged wood on an item of play equipment at Dale Acre Play Area at a cost of up to £250*
- *To obtain quotations for options of suitable alternatives for replacing the pathway on The Spinney, and also areas of the cemetery pathway*
- *To reconfirm the approval previously granted in principal to St Andrews Church for hiring The Centenary Paddock but to draw the hirers attention to conditions regarding the maximum number of vendors, parking provisions, PA system restrictions and rules regarding advertising banners*
- *To reconfirm the approval previously granted in principal to Countesthorpe Scouts for hiring The Centenary Paddock but to draw the hirers attention to conditions regarding noise levels, parking provisions and rules regarding advertising banners as well as requesting a copy of the fire risk assessment*
- *To contact Brook Court Care Home to enquire as to whether they would be willing to receive a memorial bench donation from a resident to replace the damaged bench currently on site*
- *To remove the bench located on Foston Road ahead of works being started on the development of the new housing estate*

2024/25 209. To report and approve the recommendations from the VE Day Working Group meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The report of the VE Day Working Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was received. It was resolved for the report be adopted.

2024/25 210. To receive the report from the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

The report of the Village Hall Management Committee held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was received.

2024/25 211. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were received.

2024/25 212. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- To purchase lockers for the Grounds Staff to store PPE at a cost of £75
- For the Assistant Parish Council Manager to complete the SLCC CiLCA registration, following completion of training, at a cost of £450
- To purchase one replacement boiler at a cost of £2940 from Crown Heating & Plumbing
- To request that any future applications for grant aid be completed on the relevant grant aid application form, standardising the process for all who wish to apply
- For the review of the effectiveness of internal control of financial systems to be adopted by the Parish Council and confirmed in Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2025
- To note the action of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in authorising the payment of the termination of the ElemenTel contract.

2024/25 213. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

It was resolved to approve the request for the Parish Council Manager and Cllr K McGovern to attend LRALC's 'Boosting your Council's Identity; how to promote your Council effectively' training course at a cost of £35 per person.

2024/25 214. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and will follow on from the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2025