

The Meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 when there were present:

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

Also in attendance was Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

2024/25 215. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllr S Kinvig.

2024/25 216. To receive disclosures of interest and to consider any requests for dispensation

Cllrs R Bayliss and A Clifford declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in Blaby District Council (BDC).

2024/25 217. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

2024/25 218. 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 Human Resources Committee Terms of Reference.

2024/25 219. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Leicestershire County Councillor, L Phillimore, reported that there were ongoing works in response to the flooding which occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and that residents affected were being kept informed.

2024/25 220. Public participation session

There were no public present.

2024/25 221. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

It was noted that the dog waste bin which had been removed from Stroma Way by Blaby District Council had now been returned.

There had been a report of small boxes which had been installed on street light columns throughout the village which were currently being investigated by Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department.

2024/25 222. To discuss police matters

Cllr K McGovern provided an update on local police matters with it being resolved to invite PCSO Kirsty Reid to the meeting of the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and to consider items to be raised with her at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

2024/25 223. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during March 2025 was received. It was noted also that a poster advertising sessions being run on Dale Acre by the youth workers over the Easter break had been distributed locally.

2024/25 224. 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			
	£		£
ESPO	907.72	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	96.61
Water-plus	262.46	Lloyds Bank	19.75
Society of Local Council Clerks	450.00	BNP Paribas	360.00

Clover International Marketplace	23.00	Barriers Direct	719.75
Newton Flags	30.60	Amazon	12.98
Amazon	19.43	Amazon	15.58
DVLA	335.65	Wages	16,575.11
HMRC	4531.74	Leicestershire County Council	6247.93
Water-plus	29.91	Total Environmental Services	498.21
Lloyds Bank	30.27	ESPO	726.24
Petty Cash Top Up	100.00	ESPO	51.66
Coltman Bros	248.86	Swing-a-ma-thing	750.00
E H Smith	9.12	IT Solutions	593.28
Young Leicestershire	2043.75	Beddows Tree Care	1125.00
Crown Heating	2822.40	Broxap	490.74
Legal and General	2347.68	Brandon Tool Hire	26.99
Blaby Building Supplies	4.80	ICCM	105.00
Fuel Genie	288.53	Worknest	354.25
Worknest	2003.16	LRALC	1389.64
Palmers Garden Centre	68.50	ESPO	21.54
E H Smith	678.78	Rialtas	846.00
Xerox	55.15	Chandlers	77.93
Paynes of Hinckley	483.96		
Total			48,879.66

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	350.00	PHS Group	847.57
Lutterworth Flooring	250.00	Amazon	11.94
Amazon	11.95	Libra Drinks Wholesale	817.92
System-Matic Ltd	16.99	ESPO	126.00
SNJ Cleaning Services	30.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	695.39
Sterling Stock Auditors	135.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	503.14
Total			3812.14

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

2024/25 225. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2024/25 226. Local Government reorganisation

- a. To note the three initial options submitted to the Government by the Districts, County and Leicester City Council

A report containing information regarding the three initial options which had been submitted to the Government regarding devolution and unitary councils across Leicestershire had been sent to Councillors ahead of the meeting. This would continue to be updated as more information is released and public consultations with residents of Countesthorpe considered at a later date.

2024/25 227. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To purchase 8 memorial trees at a cost of £69 per tree, to be planted in Autumn 2025, in preparation for burial and cremation plots being offered in the new cemetery*
- *To remove the planter located at the end of The Spinney ahead of the development on Foston Road beginning. This would be relocated to another area on The Spinney, near to a bench*
- *To leave an area at the bottom of Willoughby Road Playing Fields unmown as part of 'No Mow May'*
- *To obtain costings for improvements to the grounds at the front of the village hall in the form of raising and grassing the land before installing new planters*

- *To obtain a quote for the village hall solar panels to be cleaned*

2024/25 228. To report and approve the recommendations from the VE Day Working Group meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

The report of the VE Day Working Group meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 was received. It was resolved for the report and risk assessments for both events on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> May to be adopted.

2024/25 229. To receive the report from the HR Committee meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

The report of the HR Committee meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 was received.

2024/25 230. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were received.

2024/25 231. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To accept the quote for £531 received from Secom to replace the faulty emergency lights identified in the most recent service inspection*
- *For a member of the Grounds Staff to complete the outstanding PA1 and PA6 pesticide training at a total cost of £379*
- *To proceed with the recommendation of the Estates Working Party to purchase 8 memorial trees at a cost of £69 per tree*
- *To proceed with purchasing a Kress electric commercial strimmer and hedge trimmer along with a commercial cyberpack battery and charger at a total cost of £1713.26*

It was noted that Cllr C Ibbotson had verified the bank statements against the bank reconciliations for all accounts and that arrangements would be made for Cllr K McGovern to complete relevant checks of the bank statements and bank reconciliations until the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

2024/25 232. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

There were no matters to raise.

2024/25 233. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2025