

The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 12th June 2025 when there were present:

Councillors: M Smith, A Clifford, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, K McGovern, P Mount, S Palmer, K Pearce, W Read, D Shuttleworth and J Thacker.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Also in attendance regarding item 2025/26 029. was PCSO Kirsty Reid.

2025/26 022. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs V Armstrong, R Bayliss, P Servadei and S Turner as well as Leicestershire County Councillor, Graham Cooke.

2025/26 023. 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).

2025/26 024. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 8th May 2025

Minutes of the meeting held 8th May 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2025/26 025. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies

There were no applications.

2025/26 026. 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 terms of reference for both the Estates Working Party and Planning Committee.

It was also resolved that all Councillors be granted access to all areas of the member's area on Countesthorpe Parish Council's website in order to access supporting documents and be better prepared for discussions at the monthly meeting.

2025/26 027. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

There was nothing to report.

2025/26 028. Public participation session

There were no public present.

2025/26 029. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

There were no matters arising.

2025/26 030. To discuss police matters

Local PCSO Kirsty Reid introduced herself and provided an update on local police matters, including thefts/shoplifting and parking issues, particularly around Greenfield School.

2025/26 031. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during May 2025 was received. It was noted that one of the youth workers had resigned and that a replacement had been appointed and was now in post.

2025/26 032. 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			
	£		£
Leicestershire County Council	6331.25	Kingsmead Marquees Ltd	938.40
Leicester Sound & Lighting	600.00	Lakul Communications	273.60

ESPO	600.94	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	95.92
Water-plus	369.79	Lloyds Bank	20.47
Blaby Print	102.00	Clover International Marketplace	23.00
Information Commissioner's Office	73.00	Lloyds Bank	30.98
Big Art Banners	125.28	Amazon	21.87
Baker Ross	55.75	BNP Paribas	312.00
Wages	16,701.67	HMRC	5419.76
Water-plus	29.06	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	422.70
Lloyds Bank	39.82	Alexandra (Mi Hub Ltd)	94.61
Brandon Hire Station	57.44	Chandlers Farm Equipment	22.75
Park Hill Training	244.00	Secom Plc	637.20
Glasdon UK Ltd	823.67	Beeston J	250.00
E H Smith	283.02	ESPO	122.34
ESPO	93.42	Beddow Tree Ltd	160.00
Fuel Genie	217.95	Chandlers Farm Equipment	2055.91
Chandlers Farm Equipment	172.74	Palmers Garden Centre	21.00
LRALC	35.00	Iris Payroll Staffology	33.60
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	91.47	Gallagher	6659.39
Total			44,662.77

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	400.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	751.94
SNJ Cleaning Services	30.00	ESPO	102.36
Lakul Communications	273.60	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	828.40
Total			2386.30

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

2025/26 033. To receive any correspondence

- The latest issue of Leicestershire County Council's Parishes and Communities Update – Environment and Transport, was received and would be circulated to all Councillors.

2025/26 034. Local Government reorganisation

The latest information regarding Local Government reorganisation had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. The government had responded to all three submissions and indicated that the three applicants should communicate with each other. They would also need to submit data in their submission covering all areas in the County and City. It was resolved that the Parish Council Manager attend a workshop for Parish Councils, being hosted by the districts, regarding their submission. It was noted also that the districts had begun a six-week public consultation process. The County and City Councils had not yet carried out their consultation process. Final submissions needed to be made to the government at the end of November 2025.

2025/26 035. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 9th June 2025

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 9th June 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- To approve the request of Messy Church (located at St Andrews Church) to use temporary spray in St Andrews Churchyard for activities with the children, providing that the spray which is to be used is first authorised by the Parish Council as being appropriate so as not to cause any permanent damage to the grass*
- To cut back and weed kill the wildflower area for the next two years, should it still be overrun with thistles after this summer's growth. Also, to consider another location within the new cemetery area to be made into a wildflower area*

- *To reposition one of the bins within the cemetery to the top, near Foston Road, as there is not currently one there and a number of plots have now been sold and reserved within that area*
- *To allow self-setting Maple and Oak Trees within the semi-circle to continue growing to fill the area out. These would be monitored and thinned out as required*
- *To approve the request from a resident for two existing memorial plaques to be relocated with three new ones being purchased. However, for the resident to be made aware that there would be a requirement for them to cover the cost to purchase two blanking plates to replace those which were being removed and that, should any damage be incurred to the existing plaques as a result of them being removed, the Parish Council would not be liable*
- *To accept the quotation from Online Playgrounds of £324 for the annual play inspection. Also, to postpone making any non-safety related purchases for play equipment repairs until the play inspection had been completed*
- *To contact Greenfield School regarding the response which had been received from Leicestershire County Council's Safe and Sustainable Travel Team in which they offered to meet and discuss the school's issues and assist with devising initiatives in the hopes of alleviating them*
- *To forward correspondence received from Leicestershire County Council regarding a consultation on its Rights of Way Improvement Plan to all Councillors as well as the local walking groups*

2025/26 036. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 29th May 2025 and 12th June 2025

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 29th May 2025 and 12th June 2025 were received.

It was resolved for the Parish Council to object to planning application 25/0441/FUL, residential development of 112 dwellings and associated infrastructure at land off Cosby Road. The draft response had been circulated to all Councillors for review and comment and it was resolved to submit the response.

It was resolved for the Parish Council to submit a response to planning application 24/0734/FUL, construction of a solar farm together with associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure at Soars Lodge Farm, objecting to the application in its current form. The draft response had been circulated to all Councillors for review and comment and it was resolved to submit the response.

2025/26 037. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 11th June 2025

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 11th June 2025 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *Further to the recent Health and Safety Inspection:*
 - . *To obtain additional information and costings, if appropriate, for the installation of a smoke alarm in the main hall*
 - . *To not proceed with servicing the trolley jack but to purchase a replacement in the future if required, and to implement additional safety measures if and when the existing trolley jack is used*
- *To remove outdated bank signatories from the online banking system*
- *To respond to Countesthorpe Cricket Club to advise that Countesthorpe Parish Council would not be offering a grant in response to their most recent request. However, again, that it would be happy to consider either a smaller and more achievable project or to reconsider the current request once other funding had been obtained*

2025/26 038. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

Cllr K McGovern expressed thanks to all involved in the organisation and running of the recent VE Day events.

2025/26 039. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2025