

The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 10th July 2025 when there were present:

Councillors: V Armstrong, R Bayliss, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, K McGovern, P Mount, W Read, 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, G Cooke, Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge, and one member of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr R Bayliss.

2025/26 040. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Clifford, S Palmer, K Pearce, P Servadei, D Shuttleworth and M Smith.

2025/26 041. 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).

2025/26 042. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 12th June 2025

Minutes of the meeting held 12th June 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2025/26 043. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies

There were no applications.

2025/26 044. 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 Finance Working Party and Library Committee.

It was also resolved that Cllr D Shuttleworth be appointed to the Planning Committee.

2025/26 045. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Leicestershire County Councillor, G Cooke, introduced himself and advised that currently, the issue of local flooding is taking priority with updates to be shared as soon as possible.

Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge, updated on leadership changes at the District Council and requested that as many people as possible complete the local Government reorganisation consultation questionnaire which had been released, prior to the deadline of 20th July.

Cllr K McGovern referred to a petition on change.org against Leicester City's proposal regarding local Government reorganisation although it was confirmed by District Councillors that they were not aware of it.

2025/26 046. Public participation session

There was one member of the public present who had nothing to raise.

2025/26 047. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

There were no matters arising.

2025/26 048. To discuss police matters

Cllr K McGovern provided an update on local police matters, including the latest crime statistics and information from PCSO Kirsty Reid's reports and Police newsletters. PCSO Reid's efforts in responding to incidents and community involvement across the village was noticed. It was also noted that Police and Crime Commissioner, Rupert Matthews, at a recent event hosted by Leicestershire County Council, had

made reference to schemes and funding opportunities to tackle the increase in shoplifting. This would be followed up.

2025/26 049. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during June 2025 was received.

It was resolved to request that the youth workers also attend areas reported to be experiencing antisocial behaviour, such as The Spinney, local shops, The Square and Cemetery.

2025/26 050. 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			
	£		£
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	12.36	Baker Ross	60.60
ShoeStation (Wellingborough)	164.97	Amazon	16.47
Amazon	30.46	Amazon	74.07
Amazon	67.98	Amazon	12.98
Amazon	57.44	Lloyds Bank	33.21
ESPO	240.58	Clover International Marketplace	23.00
HMRC	5417.91	Leicestershire County Council	6331.25
Lloyds Bank	18.20	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	187.03
Wages	16,628.58	Water-plus	30.02
ESPO	121.72	E H Smith	52.08
Moles Seeds (UK) Ltd	178.86	The New Countesthorpe Herald	352.65
Reach Education	120.00	Brandon Hire Station	72.46
Burleys	9,254.40	Crown Heating Services	705.60
Petty Cash	100.00	Fuel Genie	268.54
Leicester Diocesan Registry (Stone King)	285.60	Chandlers	250.07
Cardinus Risk Management	180.00	Cardinus Risk Management	180.00
Park Hill Training	100.00		
Total			41,629.09

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	412.20	Screwfix	26.84
System-Matic Ltd	35.20	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	356.72
ESPO	151.62	LD Plumbing & Heating Services	264.00
Sterling Security Products	135.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	595.88
PPL PRS Ltd	1167.37		
Total			3144.83

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

2025/26 051. To receive any correspondence

- a. The press release received from Blaby District Council regarding the renewal consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved not to provide a response from the Parish Council. District Councillors would follow up concerns regarding the lack of visible action undertaken to support the PSPO currently.

2025/26 052. Local Government reorganisation

Updates regarding the workshop which had been attended by the Parish Council Manager, which was hosted by the districts regarding their submission, had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was nothing else to discuss.

2025/26 053. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 7th July 2025

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

- *To purchase the replacement guttering for the chapel of rest at a cost of £1709*
- *To proceed with purchasing three tonnes of topsoil for The Square at a cost of £261, as well as hiring the relevant equipment at a cost of no more than £200*
- *To allow appropriate areas in the border next to the pathway at The Spinney to be left more natural, including wildflowers, providing that it does not encroach on the path itself, and for the remainder to be strimmed. It was further resolved to release a statement on Facebook regarding this to advise residents that the appearance is intentional and being monitored*
- *To obtain costings from Blaby District Council for emptying an additional dog waste bin following the request from a resident for a bin to be installed at Larchwood to prevent the ongoing issue of dog waste being thrown over their fence and into their garden*
- *For future budgeting, to obtain quotations for resurfacing works which are now required at Willoughby Road Car Park, at the entrance area at the bottom of the driveway, as a minimum*
- *To remove the more dominant grasses which had taken over the planters at The Square in September and replace with lower maintenance shrubs and bedding plants*
- *To undertake research and obtain costings for suitable replacements for those hedges which had died as a result of being infected by box blight which is rampant throughout the cemetery. An initial suggestion would be to replace the hedging in sections so as to spread the cost and review how the replacements take once planted*
- *To purchase replacement ropes for the large basket swing at a cost of £360*
- *To contact Countesthorpe Scouts regarding the volume of amplification which occurred at the recent Gala on The Paddock, to advise that, for any future events, it would need to be lower and contained to The Paddock area*

2025/26 054. To receive the report from the Planning Committee meeting held 10th July 2025

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held 10th July 2025 was received.

Further to the Planning Committee's resolution to publish planning updates in The Herald, due to its infrequent release dates, regular planning updates would also be uploaded to the Parish Council website for information.

It was resolved to include an agenda item at the next meeting of the Parish Council regarding the Council's stance on meeting with developers to obtain up to date information to enable the Parish Council to represent the village and to review the current s106 wish list.

2025/26 055. To receive the report from the Library Committee meeting held 24th June 2025

The report of the Library Committee meeting held 24th June 2025 was received. It had been noted that March 2026 would be the tenth anniversary of the Parish Council taking over the running of the Library and that an afternoon tea would be arranged for volunteers to celebrate. Details on the activities for the Summer Reading Challenge were also noted.

2025/26 056. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 9th July 2025

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

- *To research the potential of obtaining sponsorship of some of the hanging baskets by local businesses*
- *To proceed with completing training on devolution and open spaces at a cost of £30*

- To proceed with submitting a faculty application, at a cost of £285, and a planning application, at a cost of £235, for the relevant repairs to be completed on the pathways in the closed churchyard of St Andrews Church
- To obtain a quote for a replacement overhead barrier for Central Street car park due to the existing one being damaged
- To proceed with the following recommendations of the Estates Working Party:
 - . To purchase three tonnes of topsoil for The Square at a cost of £261, as well as hiring the relevant equipment at a cost of no more than £200
 - . To purchase replacement ropes for the large basket swing at a cost of £360
- To refer back to the Estates Working Party, for more information, the recommendation to proceed with undertaking improvement works to the area at the front of the village hall, creating a retaining wall out of slabs. Specifically, to ask that the safety implications of building up the ground level be reviewed. This project and recommendation would also be referred to the Village Hall Management Committee to consider whether any of the grant which was received from the Countesthorpe Village Hall Charity could be used to fund the project
- To ask the Estates Working Party to review their projects list and prioritise them based on safety and budget allowances, in light of it currently obtaining quotes for resurfacing the footpaths at The Spinney
- To respond to Countesthorpe Cricket Club to advise that, despite them having obtained funding to cover half the cost of their most recent request, due to the large amount still outstanding, the Parish Council would still not be offering a grant in response
- To liaise with the Planning Committee in requesting a meeting with Blaby District Council's Planning Department to discuss the status of housing applications in Countesthorpe, including the status of any developer contributions

2025/26 057. To receive any matters the Parish Council Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

There were no matters to raise.

2025/26 058. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th August 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2025