

The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 when there were present:

Councillors: R Bayliss, V Armstrong, D Billings, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, K McGovern, P Mount, K Pearce, W Read, D Shuttleworth, J Thacker and S Turner

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Also in attendance was one member of the public along with Leicestershire County Councillor, G Cooke and Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr R Bayliss.

2025/26 197. To receive apologies for absence, if any  
Apologies were received from Cllrs A Clifford, S Palmer and M Smith.

2025/26 198. 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).

2025/26 199. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2025/26 200. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies  
There were no applications received.

2025/26 201. 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.

2025/26 202. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Leicestershire County Councillor, G Cooke, reported on the work which had been undertaken by Leicestershire County Council since May 2025 including pothole repairs, drain and gully clearing, tree planting, SEN funding and other tasks such as grass cutting.

Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge, reported that Blaby District Council's draft local plan would be finalised by 14<sup>th</sup> April prior to the public consultation which is scheduled to run for six weeks from 27<sup>th</sup> April.

2025/26 203. Public participation session  
There was one member of the public present who had nothing to raise.

2025/26 204. To report any matters arising for information purposes only  
There were no matters arising.

2025/26 205. To discuss police matters  
Cllr K McGovern provided an update on local police matters including social media reports and campaigns, local crime including burglaries, and latest crime statistics.

It was noted that the latest scheduled beat surgery had not taken place.

2025/26 206. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report  
It was noted that the youth workers report on activities which had taken place during February 2026 had not been received. This would be chased up and circulated to all councillors as soon as possible.

Blaby District Councillor R Holdridge provided feedback on Blaby District Council's Youth Conference which had been chaired by Cllr A Clifford and attended by over 100 young people from the district.

2025/26 207. 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			
	£		£
Wages	17,009.02	HMRC	5,577.24
Leicestershire County Council	6,534.55	Water-plus	364.76
Clover International Marketplace	23.00	Lloyds Bank	40.36
Vinyl Banners Printing	25.76	Amazon	7.98
Chiltern Seeds	47.15	Big Red Power Tools	29.94
ESPO	644.82	Lloyds Bank	47.56
Water-plus	30.02	IRIS Business Software Ltd	36.00
Blaby District Council	946.52	Blaby District Council	1,651.26
A T Houghton	21.60	R E Bowers & Freeman	117.34
Paynes Garages Ltd	599.46	ESPO	87.60
Improvement and Development Agency	576.00	Fuel Genie	129.77
R E Bowers & Freeman	173.57	Lakul Communications	273.60
DVLA	347.50	Amazon	8.80
Amazon	37.50	Amazon	11.98
Amazon	19.98	Etsy	51.84
Chandlers Farm Equipment	102.37	Greenfield Primary School	500.00
E H Smith	28.68	Petersfield Growing Mediums	214.98
Petty Cash	100.00	Open Spaces Society	45.00
		Total	36,463.51

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	472.24	System-Matic Ltd	18.20
J B Green Upholstery	900.00	Amazon	16.39
Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	873.64	PHS Group	909.83
Amazon	9.45	Amazon	17.98
System-Matic Ltd	16.99	PHS Group	149.02
ESPO	66.36		
		Total	3,450.10

It was resolved that the Salary, Pension and HMRC payments for February 2026 were approved.

2025/26 208. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2025/26 209. Local Government Reorganisation consultation

It was resolved to submit the Parish Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation, as drafted by the Planning Committee.

A query was raised regarding the new local bus timetable which had been released and appeared to show extended City boundaries. Leicestershire County Councillor G Cooke would refer this to Leicestershire County Council's Transport Department.

2025/26 210. To receive the report from the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The report of the Library Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was received.

2025/26 211. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was received and adopted.

It was resolved that the following request not be approved and that the resolution of the Village Hall Management Committee, to match the existing brown village hall door and window colour, be maintained.

- *To support the resolution of the Village Hall Management Committee in opting for brown doors to replace external doors, as and when required. The Estates Working Party would specifically request a dark oak colour to match the eaves and garage/workshop doors*

2025/26 212. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were received.

It was resolved to circulate notes taken from the Davidsons Developments consultation regarding the reserved matters application for Willoughby Road.

It was resolved to publish on the Parish Council's website, the objection to planning application 26/0150/NMAT, to amend the wording of conditions 20 and 21 for the Foston Road development.

It was resolved to refer to the Planning Committee to consider contacting Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department regarding highway changes relative to the Willoughby Road development.

2025/26 213. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To accept the quote of £224 from Farol Ltd for the purchase and installation of a new battery for the John Deere mower*
- *To obtain a quote for a replacement cellar door as the existing one is rotten*
- *To proceed with undertaking independent HAVs and noise testing every two years*
- *To obtain an updated quote for a Kress mower, to replace an existing mower, along with additional information on the battery requirements and cost*
- *To investigate the possibility of refurbishing two existing mowers which were failing to create one working back up mower*
- *To purchase a replacement part and installation kit directly from the manufacturer at a cost of £366 inc VAT, for the repair of the gate at the Leysland Play Area, to be repaired in house, and should this be successful then a further two kits would be purchased to replace on the Dale Acre and Leysland play areas.*
- *To place the order for replacement external library doors with Automatic Access Ltd at a cost of £7193. A decision would need to be made by the Parish Council in terms of the colour*
- *To accept the quote of £598 from Secom for the required security connections to be made once the new library doors had been installed*
- *To further monitor the single emergency exit door in the main hall but to authorise the purchase of a replacement door, should the existing one fail*
- *To not proceed with the project to obtain sponsorship for the hanging baskets or planters at present*

2025/26 214. To receive any matters the Parish Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only  
There were no matters to raise.

2025/26 215. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026, following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2026