

The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 when there were present:

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

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

2025/26 216. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Bayliss, K McGovern, S Palmer and S Turner.

2025/26 217. 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).

Cllr K Pearce declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2025/26 230, specifically regarding the grant aid request received from the Next Chapter.

2025/26 218. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2025/26 219. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies

A letter of interest from Mrs A Spooner had been received and circulated to all councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to co-opt Mrs Spooner and arrangements would be made for her to sign the declaration of office.

2025/26 220. 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.

2025/26 221. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Blaby District Councillor, A Clifford, reported on six local authorities which had been fast tracked through the local government reorganisation process, reiterating that the local outcome should be released in Summer 2026.

It was also reported that Blaby District Council's local plan had been delayed due to outstanding evidence from the transport consultants at Leicestershire County Council. It was now anticipated to be consulted on in Summer 2026.

2025/26 222. Public participation session

There were no members of the public present.

2025/26 223. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

It was reported that there had been correspondence received from a resident, advising that the new bus timetable prevented students from arriving at College in South Wigston on time. This would be investigated.

2025/26 224. To discuss police matters

In the absence of Cllr K McGovern, the Parish Manager reported on local police matters, noting that the next beat surgery is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 12pm at The Rainbow Shop.

2025/26 225. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers report on activities which had taken place during March 2026 was received.

2025/26 226. 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                         | 17,099.42 | HMRC                             | 5,707.16  |
| Leicestershire County Council | 6,534.55  | Clover International Marketplace | 23.00     |
| Lloyds Bank                   | 16.84     | Water-plus                       | 440.74    |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power     | 582.51    | TotalEnergies Gas & Power        | 102.86    |
| IAE                           | 282.00    | ESPO                             | 489.46    |
| Lloyds Bank                   | 34.86     | Water-plus                       | 27.12     |
| LD Plumbing and Heating       | 456.00    | Goscote Nurseries                | 227.65    |
| EH Smith                      | 46.32     | Coltman Bros                     | 10.40     |
| OLP Playgrounds               | 204.00    | Morgans Locksmiths               | 30.00     |
| Healthscreen UK               | 120.00    | Young Leicestershire             | 2,318.37  |
| IT Solutions                  | 593.28    | Farol                            | 285.67    |
| Hymans Ill Health Insurance   | 2,242.24  | Blaby District Council           | 1,755.23  |
| Blaby District Council        | 5,880.00  | Blaby District Council           | 4,139.21  |
| LRALC                         | 1,406.88  | Fuel Genie                       | 210.58    |
| R E Bowers and Freeman        | 250.25    | Rialtas                          | 879.60    |
| Chandlers                     | 345.52    | Coltman Bros                     | 316.63    |
| Petty Cash                    | 100.00    | K Tee Tyres Ltd                  | 95.00     |
| Xerox                         | 62.38     | IT Solutions                     | 475.20    |
| Worknest                      | 354.25    | Worknest                         | 1,945.20  |
| Total                         |           |                                  | 56,090.38 |

| Village Hall               |          |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
|                            | £        |                            | £        |
| Refunds                    | 650.00   | Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd | 262.54   |
| Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd | 448.91   | ESPO                       | 95.16    |
| Secom                      | 2,601.60 | Sterling Stock Auditors    | 135.00   |
| Total                      |          |                            | 4,193.21 |

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

2025/26 227. To receive any correspondence

a. The Mayor of Mennecy regarding twinning

It was resolved to include an article in The Herald, parish council website and Facebook to enquire whether there would be any residents interested in the twinning project, following correspondence received from the Mayor of Mennecy, expressing a keen interest in reviving the previous agreement.

b. Safer, Quieter, Cleaner, Greener

It was resolved to accept the invitation from a representative from Safer, Quieter, Cleaner, Greener to a meeting of the Planning Committee to provide additional information regarding the initiative and its implementation across the district, prior to the parish council making any commitment to support.

c. Severn Trent Water – Community Flooding Officers

It was resolved to respond to the correspondence received from Severn Trent Water, introducing the new team of Community Flooding Officers, to request additional information regarding their role and whether they can be advertised to the public.

2025/26 228. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 was received and adopted. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To agree, in principle, to the request of a resident to install a rustic style slate memorial stone in the cemetery but to ask that the final design be approved by the Parish Council Manager prior to being ordered*

- *To approve the application from The Scouts to use The Centenary Paddock on Saturday 4th July for their annual gala but to draw their attention to condition 20 regarding music volume and to request additional information regarding the amplification set up to be used during the event*

It was also reported that the parish council would once again be participating in no mow may on a section of Willoughby Road playing fields.

The enquiry which had been received from a resident requesting consideration be given to the installation of a skate park would also be included as an item on the parish council meeting agenda for discussion.

2025/26 229. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and 9<sup>th</sup> April 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 correspondence received from Miller Homes, regarding the Foston Road development, to all councillors ahead of the next meeting.

In addition to the Parish Council submitting a complaint to Blaby District Council regarding the early issue of the decision notice for planning application 26/0150/NMAT, Cllr D Shuttleworth reported that Local MP, Alberto Costa, had also written to Blaby District Council regarding the perceived breach.

2025/26 230. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The report of the Finance Working Party meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To purchase a replacement office chair at a cost of £131*
- *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 2026*
- *To purchase a Kress mower bundle from Chandlers, to include an electric mower, battery pack and charger, at a cost of £1999*
- *To award a grant of £500 to The Next Chapter towards the cost of an isolation shelter*

It was resolved for the effectiveness of internal control of financial systems to be recirculated to all councillors with a view for it to be adopted at the next meeting of the parish council.

2025/26 231. To receive any matters the Parish Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

It was reported that there had been a suggestion to bring forward the time of the Parish Council meeting, which would be considered at the annual meeting of the parish council in May.

2025/26 232. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2026