

The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 9th July 2026 when there were present:

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

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Also present was one member of the public.

2026/27 042. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllr R Bayliss and Leicestershire County Councillor, G Cooke.

2026/27 043. 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.

Cllr M Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2026/27 052, specifically regarding the payment to The Herald.

2026/27 044. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2026

Minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2026/27 045. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies

There were no applications received.

2026/27 046. 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.

2026/27 047. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors

Cllr S Turner queried when the recently vandalised bench and bin on the Country Park would be cleaned up and replaced. Blaby District Councillor A Clifford, confirmed that he would follow this up.

Leicestershire County Councillor, G Cooke, had sent a report in his absence advising that he would be meeting with residents of Mennecy Close with regards to their concerns about future flood risk and he would be following up with Leicestershire County Council and Severn Trent Water on progress since the flooding in 2024.

2026/27 048. Public participation session

There was one member of the public present who asked the following questions which had been shared via social media. These questions were responded to by the Parish Council, with relevant actions noted:

- . When is the roundabout on the Foston Road/Leicester Road development due to be installed?
- . Why hadn't the Parish Council cut back vegetation obscuring a sign on Leicester Road?
- . Why had the housing numbers on the Willoughby Road development changed?
- . When would the speed limit sign on Leicester Road be reinstated, following its removal by Miller Homes?
- . Why doesn't the Parish Council respond to emails?

Blaby District Council would be contacted with regard to an update on when the works to install the roundabout at Foston Road would take place. The Parish Council had explained on its Facebook page why it does not cut back the hedgerows that it does not own, as its priority is to identify the owner and then consideration would be given where the land was not registered. The original planning permission

for the housing numbers at the Willoughby Road application had been granted for no more than 185 dwellings, however, the current number of dwellings was reduced. The speed limit sign on Leicester Road would be reinstated by the developer as part of the roadworks. The person who had raised this was advised to send another email as a test as an email had not been received from them.

2026/27 049. To report any matters arising for information purposes only

i. Incident with point of use hot water heater

It was reported that there had recently been an incident with the point of use hot water boiler in the ladies which had resulted in a small fire. Immediate action had been taken to make the water heater safe but it was noted that there was currently no hot water in the ladies toilets whilst relevant quotes were obtained and considered. These had been discussed by the Finance Working Party, with recommendation to approve the purchase of a replacement. Full detail of the incident would be received by the Village Hall Management Committee at its meeting in July.

2026/27 050. To discuss police matters

Cllr K McGovern reported on local police matters including social media reports, police operations and crime statistics. It was resolved to share on Facebook, the advice issued from the police regarding protecting your home from burglaries, following the recent increase in the area.

It was resolved to report to the local PCSO the issue of speeding vehicles on Rosebank Road, Foston Road and Station Road, raised by Cllr S Palmer.

2026/27 051. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers' report on activities which had taken place during June 2026 was received. It was noted that the youth workers would shortly be taking two weeks annual leave before hosting their summer activities programme.

There was discussion regarding the questions which the youth workers were asking the young residents locally and whether these questions could be altered slightly to encourage responses which would be more achievable.

2026/27 052. 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	16,908.08	HMRC	5,752.24
Leicestershire County Council	4,358.98	Lloyds Bank	26.52
Clover International Marketplace	23.00	ESPO	238.83
Water-plus	28.29	Water-plus	386.75
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	97.55	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	369.32
Lloyds Bank	11.00	Water-plus	30.70
Fuel Genie	468.69	Lakul Communications	273.60
Reach Education & Wellbeing	120.00	JuJue Arts	45.00
Burleys	9,254.40	Extinguish Fire Solutions	148.20
Tudor Environmental	80.52	The New Countesthorpe Herald	225.50
F B Ross & Co Ltd	333.60	ESPO	105.30
Leech J	10.73	Amazon	12.99
Amazon	50.40	Amazon	15.99
Amazon	17.64	Amazon	12.38
Amazon	14.98	Primatel Products Ltd	18.30
National Windscreens	154.04	High Speed Training Ltd	96.00
IRIS Business Software Ltd	33.60	LRALC	50.00
K T Tyres	4.50	Chandlers Farm Equipment	826.58
Palmers Garden Centre	40.00	Xerox	87.58
IT Solutions	475.20	IT Solutions	303.84

G Sellar	1,104.48		
		Total	42,615.48

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	400.00	Crown Heating Services	574.80
LD Plumbing & Heating Services	240.00	Sterling Stock Auditors	135.00
		Total	1,349.80

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

2026/27 053. To receive any correspondence

Correspondence had been received from Cllr K Pearce regarding the 'cool spaces' initiative with it being resolved to refer it to the Emergency Plan Working Group for consideration.

2026/27 054. Local Government reorganisation

It was noted that a decision on the three proposals was expected to be announced by 17th July 2026 and that the Councils involved were currently working on housekeeping admin tasks in preparation for future changes.

2026/27 055. Blaby District Local Plan

It was noted that the public consultation regarding Blaby District's Local Plan had now been launched, with a closing date of 21st August 2026. The District Council's public event which had been scheduled at the village hall for 21st July 2026 would be promoted on social media and the website.

Suggestions to install a comment/feedback box or hold a Parish Council hosted public event, to aid the Parish Council in forming its response, were considered and would be explored further.

Blaby District Cllr, A Clifford, advised that every resident in the district should have received a letter regarding the consultation and that he would follow this up with Blaby District Council should it be the case that these haven't been received.

2026/27 056. Social media communication for discussion

Following recent comments posted on a local Facebook group regarding the Parish Council, it was resolved to refer to the Strategic, Planning and Policy Committee for review, the Social Media Policy. Cllr K McGovern and D Shuttleworth would also attend.

2026/27 057. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 6th July 2026

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 6th July 2026 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To submit an application to Blaby District Council for 15 saplings, to be planted in the new cemetery, as part of their 'Big Tree Giveaway'*
- *To submit a grant application to The Tree Council for a grant to purchase remaining trees required to complete the planting scheme in the new cemetery*
- *To write to Leicestershire County Council to request that the Countesthorpe sign on Leicester Road be removed due to the fact that it is not located at the village boundary and there is already a sign in this location, following the recent discussion on Facebook regarding the maintenance of vegetation surrounding the sign. Also, to request clarification of where road markings, including speed limits, will be included on Leicester Road, once the highways works for the new Foston Road/Leicester Road development have been completed*

It was resolved not to adopt the revised cemetery rules, as recommended, but for these to be further reviewed once more by the Estates Working Party with a view to making the language more empathetic.

Regarding the request from Oadby and Wigston Girls FC requesting permission to display a banner on The Paddock fence, it was resolved instead to contact Blaby District Council to discuss site suitability, specifically whether the location would prove a distraction to drivers. More information regarding the football club and the advertisement would also be requested and taken back to the next meeting of the Estates working Party for further consideration.

2026/27 058. To receive the report from the Planning Committee meeting held 9th July 2026

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held 9th July 2026 was received.

2026/27 059. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 8th July 2026

The report of the Finance Working Party Meeting held 8th July 2026 was received. It was noted that the Finance Working Party had reviewed the budget to 30th June 2026 and it was reported to the Parish Council that the items allocated to the legal and professional fees heading had been checked and were correct and that there were no other items of concern.

It was also noted that the Finance Working Party had reviewed the quarterly financial reports including the quarterly budget report, the detailed income & expenditure report, the balance sheet and list of reserves for the first quarter, to 30th June 2026. These documents had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting.

A copy of the budget report was made available to all Councillors on the members area of the website.

It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *Following the recent incident with the point of use water heater in the ladies toilets, to:*
 - . *Accept the quote from RCD Electrical for the replacement and repositioning of the water heater at a cost of £846*
 - . *Accept the quote from Secom for the installation of a smoke detector in the ladies toilets at a cost of £700*
 - . *Refer to the Village Hall Management Committee, for consideration, the recommendation to proceed with undertaking Fixed Appliance Testing, at a cost of £35 per item, totalling £535 for the required 15 fixed appliances, to be completed every three years*
 - . *Refer to the Village Hall Management Committee, for consideration, the recommendation to proceed with bringing forward the 5 yearly EICR, at a cost of £820*
- *Accept the quote from Earlsmere for HAVS testing to be undertaken on the grounds equipment, at a cost of 1207.50*

2026/27 060. To receive any matters the Parish Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only

It was noted that correspondence had been received from a resident requesting the gates to Willoughby Road Playing Fields be locked overnight due to antisocial behaviour. This would be reported to the local police and referred to the Estates Working Party for consideration.

2026/27 061. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th August 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2026