The meeting of Countesthorpe Parish Council was held on Thursday 8th October 2026 when there were present:
Councillors: M Smith, M Gillespie, B Gulyas, S Kinvig, K McGovern, P Mount, S Palmer, K Pearce, W Read, A Spooner and J Thacker

Also present was Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech
Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

2026/27 101. To receive apologies for absence, if any
Apologies were received from Cllrs V Armstrong, D Billings, A Clifford, C Ibbotson and D Shuttleworth.

2026/27 102. To receive disclosures of interest and to consider any requests for dispensation
There were no disclosures of interest.

2026/27 103. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 10th September 2026
Minutes of the meeting held 10th September 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to approve the minutes, which were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

2026/27 104. To consider applications for Councillor vacancies
A letter of interest from Mrs Burditt had been received and circulated to all councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to co-opt Mrs S Burditt and arrangements would be made for her to sign the declaration of office.

2026/27 105. To appoint representatives to Committees, Working Parties and outside bodies, and discuss Terms of Reference for the Committees and Working Parties
It was resolved that Cllr S Burditt be appointed to the Planning and Library Committees.

2026/27 106. To receive reports and questions from Representatives, County Councillor, District Councillor and Parish Councillors
Blaby District Councillor, R Holdridge, advised that the pause of Local Government Reorganisation remained a focus of the District Council. He also advised that there had been an initial enquiry from a local group regarding the Ward Improvement Scheme with some initial ideas from councillors also being raised. Furthermore, it was also reported that two housing development applications had been approved at the latest meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee, one in Blaby and one in Cosby.

Cllr B Gulyas presented information regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund which is currently accepting applications for grants to support community-led crime prevention and safety projects. This would be circulated to all councillors for information and referred to the Strategic Planning and Policy Working Party for consideration.

2026/27 107. Public participation session
There was no public present.

2026/27 108. To report any matters arising for information purposes only
It was reported that the next meeting of the Strategic Planning and Policy Working Party had been scheduled for 2pm on Wednesday 28th October where the Country Park would be discussed. Any councillors who would like to attend were asked to confirm with the Parish Manager.

2026/27 109. To discuss police matters
Cllr K McGovern reported on local police matters including social media reports, local priorities and crime statistics.

There was also an update provided with regards the last day of working for the local PCSO within Countesthorpe with it being resolved to send a card of thanks for her work during her time in the area.

2026/27 110. To discuss youth work matters, including receiving the monthly report

The youth workers' report on activities which had taken place during September 2026 was received. There was noted to be an item of concern which would be followed up with the youth workers.

2026/27 111. 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	20,258.14	HMRC	7,513.86
Leicestershire County Council	5,224.18	TotalEnergies Gas & Power	103.69
Lloyds Bank	29.14	ESPO	133.51
R E Bowers & Freeman	184.14	Lloyds Bank	23.00
Water-plus	28.29	Elevate Safety Solutions	117.00
Water-plus	323.13	ESPO	133.13
Lloyds Bank	32.85	Amazon	189.99
Amazon	18.59	Interflora	56.65
Land Registry	7.00	Amazon	134.99
Primatel Products Ltd	18.30	Beanmachine	40.09
IRIS Business Software Ltd	33.60	Water-plus	30.70
Fuel Genie	390.19	LRALC	50.00
R E Bowers & Freeman	207.54	ESPO	42.00
Memsafe	2,079.00	R E Bowers & Freeman	165.96
Fenland OLP	311.52	Petersfield Growing Mediums	234.53
ESPO	155.88	J Leech	34.30
Lakul Pulse	273.60	Elevate	117.00
Xerox	109.15	Burchnall L	400.00
		Total	39,204.64

Village Hall			
	£		£
Refunds	738.88	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	1,062.11
Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	369.40	Amazon	11.11
The Beer & Gas Man	36.00	Libra Drinks Wholesale Ltd	671.93
		Total	2,889.43

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

2026/27 112. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2026/27 113. Local Government reorganisation

There were no updates to discuss.

2026/27 114. Blaby District Council's Council Ward Improvement Scheme

It was resolved to advertise the scheme, in which District Councillors had been awarded a total of £9000 between them to be used on community projects within their ward, to residents.

2026/27 115. To adopt the following policies and risk assessments as recommended by the Strategic Planning and Policy and Finance Working Parties

It was resolved to adopt the following policies and risk assessments which would be circulated, published and made available as appropriate.

a. Borrowing and Investment Strategy policy
b. Social Media Policy
c. IT Policy
d. Parish Council Safeguarding Policy
e. Disclosure and Barring Service – Prices and Guidance

f. Fire Risk Assessment
g. Grounds Maintenance Risk Assessment
h. Grounds Maintenance Cemetery Risk Assessment

2026/27 116. To report and approve the recommendations from the Estates Working Party meeting held 5th October 2026

The report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 5th October 2026 was received. It was resolved to approve the following recommendations and the report be adopted.

- *To repair the failed memorials, following the recent memorial testing, at an estimated minimum cost of £1800, should no plot owners come forward*
- *In the new cemetery, to offer burial plots sequentially, at the time they are required for immediate interments, with no reservation of plots permitted, and to only inter in one section of the cemetery at a time*
- *To purchase a 40 litre plastic bin at a cost of up to £260 for installation at The Paddock to trial whether plastic bins may be more durable and to inform future decisions*
- *To recommend to a resident backing on to Larchwood to raise their concerns with regard to dog waste being thrown into their garden, to the District Council's dog warden service*

2026/27 117. To report and approve the recommendations from the Emergency Plan Working Group meeting held 17th September 2026

The report of the Emergency Plan Working Group meeting held on 17th September 2026 was received. It was resolved for the report to be adopted.

2026/27 118. To receive the reports from the Planning Committee meetings held 24th September 2026 and 8th October 2026

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held 24th September 2026 and 8th October 2026 were received.

It was resolved to enquire as to whether the technical approval had yet been issued for the construction of the roundabout on the Foston Road/Leicester Road development.

2026/27 119. To report and approve the recommendations from the Finance Working Party meeting held 7th October 2026

The report of the Finance Working Party Meeting held 9th September 2026 was received. It was noted that the Finance Working Party had reviewed the budget to 30th September 2026 and it was reported to the parish council that there were no items of concern. A copy of the budget report was made available to all councillors on the members area of the website. The following was noted:

Cllr K McGovern had completed relevant checks of the bank statements and payments against bank reconciliations and Cllr C Ibbotson had completed relevant checks of the bank reconciliations against bank statements for the second quarter of the 2026/2027 financial year, to 30th September 2026

The draft budget for 2027/2028, along with potential financial costs for next year, was initially discussed and would be further reviewed at the next meeting of the Finance Working Party, scheduled for 11th November 2026. All Committees and Working Parties would be asked to consider any items which they would like to be included by the Finance Working Party when setting the 2027/2028 budget

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 quarter. The documents had been circulated to all councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting. A query was raised regarding an item of expenditure on the quarterly reports, this would be investigated and followed up with the Finance Working Party at its next meeting.

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

- *To support the following recommendations of the Estates Working Party*
  . To repair the failed memorials which had been tested, at an estimated minimum cost of £1800, should no plot owners come forward
  . To purchase a 40 litre plastic dog waste bin at a cost of up to £260
- *To approve Cllrs V Armstrong and S Palmer to be appointed as bank signatories on the Lloyds Internet Banking System*

The following recommendation would be brought back to the next parish council meeting for approval:

- *For the Reserves Policy to be adopted by the Parish Council with no changes having been proposed, following its circulation to all councillors for review*

2026/27 120. To receive any matters the Parish Manager may wish to raise for information purposes only
There were no matters to raise.

2026/27 121. Date of the next meeting
The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12th November 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated..... 2026