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## **Groby Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby.**

### **Cou/138/05-06 Present.**

Members: Cllr Hagan (Chairman), Cllrs; Beck, Dickson, Jones, Hodges, Hollick, Kennard, Marvin, Purves, Yarwood and York.  
The Acting Clerk- Cllr Lock  
Borough Councillor Collins, Members of the Public.

### **Cou/139/05-06 Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs Batty and Emmerson.

### **Cou/140/05-06 Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Dickson – All items relating to Groby Parish Residents Group, all items relating Public Open Spaces and Parish Plan.  
Cllr Yarwood – Correspondence item no. 10.  
Cllr Beck – Allotments.  
Cllr Cartwright – All items relating to the Parish Plan, Neighbourhood watch.  
Cllr Hollick – Allotments, Village Hall.  
Cllr. Hodges – Public Open Space specifically Stamford Drive.  
Cllr Coates – Correspondence item no. 10.  
Cllr York – Allotments.

*The meeting adjourned for public participation at 7.05pm.*

### **Cou/141/05-06 Public Participation.**

Chairman asked about the locking of gates due to current circumstances, Acting Clerk Cllr Lock replied that after he had been contacted by Cllr Collins he had instructed the staff to lock the gates that afternoon all were locked apart from Groby Pool due to cars still being on the car park but it was locked as early as possible this evening.

Council agreed to keep the gates locked, chairman asked if we should consider the village hall car park as the overhead barrier had been damaged, Cllr Hollick had been assured by HBBC that they will look in to the matter.

*The meeting reconvened following Public Participation at 7.08pm.*

### **Cou/142/-5-06 Plot 50 Ratby Road Allotments.**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock: suggested members need to consider correspondence from Mrs Foxall and the allotment society when considering what to do. He also suggested that we split the item into two separate parts, firstly discussing the allotment society proposals, as they may have an impact on the way we deal with Mrs Foxall, this was agreed.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock readout the letter from Mrs Foxall requesting an extension to her vacation date to end of September, subsequently a telephone call she hoped to move sometime this month. Cllr Beck questioned our insurance cover as she had equipment incompatible with the use of it as an allotment. Questions were raised as to the lack of compliance with the current correspondence and previous ones, also have we the authority to remove the property from our land as she is trespassing and has been served with an eviction order in February 2005 that she did not adhere to.

Cllr Purves joined the meeting during this item at 7.20 pm.

Cllr Hodges proposed that 14 days notice be given to Mrs Foxall to vacate the Council's land from the date of the letter or the Council will be forced to employ contractors to do this work and seek to recover costs from her seconded by Cllr Kennard.

Clerk asked who would do the work, as he was still unhappy about our own staff doing the work.

For 8 against 1 abstained all allotment holders.

**Resolved: We send a recorded delivery and hand delivered letters is sent to Mrs Foxall.**

Council discussed the splitting of plot 50 to allow the creation of extra car parking space. Taking away from the allotment a small triangle that currently contains a tree that is unusable for cultivation would create this, concern was raised that the proposed car parking area was adjacent to the footpath.

Chairman allowed a representative of the allotment society to answer Councils questions. Chairman thought that there was two areas of concern the loss of allotment land by converting it to car parking and do we restrict the allotment society in the way that they manage the allotments for us.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock asked if there were any legal obligations in converting the land into car park, Council decided that as we had already done it in the past.

Cllr Hodges proposed that we accede to the allotment society request seconded by Cllr Jones.

**Resolved: We accede to the allotment society request.**

Council then went on to look at the work required to install the car park plus trimming of the hedge, Acting Clerk Cllr Lock asked so that Members would not prejudge item 7, they have to consider the timing of the work so to ensure are priorities are met. Cllr Yarwood requested that Council look at 3.7 in the APSE report before making a decision Cllr Cartwright ask them to look at page 19, this was about planning the work.

Cllr Cartwright pointed out that all the work could be programmed for October. Council agreed that the allotment society decide what priority they wish to give to the work and either go out to contract or wait until October for the Council to do the work with the obvious cost saving to their budget.

**Resolved: The Allotment Society decide when the work is required, inform the Council of their decision how the work is to be executed.**

#### **Cou/143/05-06 Provision of Footpaths Etc. – Castell/Marina Park.**

Cllr Kennard presented his report the key points are that the specification that was used for the tendering process does not met the criteria required by FLAG plus we currently do not have Marina Park registered we need to include the access to the field which is also required.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock outlined the legal issues that we had with plot 50 that caused the invoice to rise to £350, and when queried by Cllr Batty they pointed out that the cost should have been higher so Council must be aware that the cost would be in the region of £300 to £500, Cllr Kennard to liase with Harvey Ingram.

Cllr Kennard reported that FLAG had recommended three landscape consultants who would include all work required including supervision of the contractors site work.

Cllr Purves proposed at we accede to FLAG's request and that Cllr Kennard approach the recommended consultants to arrange site meetings seconded by Cllr Hodges.

**Resolved: The Clerk writes to the landscape consultants to arrange site meetings.**

**Cou/144/05-06 Correspondence.**

The Clerk stated before we look at the correspondence he needed to explain that the list had been extended to the agreed cut-off date for tonight as the meeting scheduled for tonight as a single item had been changed at the meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> August into a normal Council meeting that required the correspondence to be updated.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Received From</b>	<b>Summary of Contents</b>	<b>Suggested Action</b>
1	Mr P Keefe	Letter re Allotment Gardens	Discussed under planning on 1/8/2005
2	Mr D E Holloway	Letter re Klondike	
3	Len Smith	E mail re letter of complaint	Council agreed to respond to Mr Smith apologising for the delay in responding, the actions of the past chairman and details of the Standards Board
		E mail re letter of complaint Accounts	Mr Smith acknowledged that the matter had been dealt with as he had attended subsequent Council meetings
4	Elaine Chambers	Email re Cowpen Spinney	Noted
5	LCC	Waiting restrictions to come into force from 18th July	Noted
6	John Collins	Enforcement problems with the Klondyke	Discussed under planning on 1/8/2005
7	GPRG	By-Election	Council thought in the absence of Cllr. Batty that these item had been cleared up at the meeting 1/8/2005
8	Peter Batty	Conduct of Cllrs. At meeting held 11th July 2005	
9	LCC	Planning for Bradgate Landfill	Discussed under planning on 1/8/2005
10	LCC	Definitive Map Modification 55/57 Markfield Road	Noted
11	Ultra Seal	Quote for tyre filling	Clerk to assess the best quote
12	N Foxall	Letter re land adjc 117 Ratby Rd	Clerk to write N. Foxall giving her notice to quit included in the discussion on agenda item 16
13	Peter Batty	Compensation Claim - Field Head	In the absence of Cllr Batty this to be deferred until next meeting
14	John Collins	Klondyke appeal	Discussed under planning on 1/8/2005
15	Chris Cary	Use of Marina Park	Deferred until next meeting
16074	Peter Batty	Accident A50	Covered under matters arising they will also be covered by a meeting at County Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> September
16081	LCC	40 mph on A50	
16084	D. Sprason	E Mail re Field Head issues	

16082	D. Stockhill	E mail re letter of complaint	Council agreed to send acknowledgement of the receipt
16079	C. Poyser	Trees Oakmedow Way	Clerk to write to explain that the work will be carried out in the autumn
16040	Dog Warden	Contract renewal	Defer to next meeting
16057	LCC	Pedestrian crossing	Noted
16058 + 16077	LCC	27/28 Bus route improvements	Noted
16068	M. Cartwright	Council paperwork distribution	Noted
16073	Len Smith	E mail withdrawal from election	Noted
16081	John Collins	Klondyke Social Assessment	Discussed under planning on 1/8/2005

Cllr Coates left the meeting during the discussion on item 10.  
Cllrs Beck and York expressed a personnel interest in item 10.

**Resolved the actions set out in the list above are approved.**

The Clerk submitted lists of correspondence these had been distributed twice for the meetings of 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> August but only fully covered at tonight's meeting, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, detailing correspondence received/actioned by him for the period 5<sup>th</sup> July 2005 to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The Clerk answered members' questions thereon.

**Resolved the list of correspondence received/actioned by the Clerk is noted.**

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman

## Closed Session

### **Cou/145/05-06 Association for Public Service Excellence.**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock asked how Council wished to address this issue.

Cllr Hodges questioned Cllr Jones declaration of interest as she had previously stated that we must look after the lads, in her opinion this was her expressing her view, as she was making the statement that as a good employer, we should consider the employee's.

Cllr Hodges questioned Cllr Hollick on his declaration of interest as he lived next door to one of the operatives, he replied that he actually lived across the road he does pass the time of day with him as he does with other neighbours but has not discussed with him anything contained in this report or any other Council issues.

Cllr Jones in the right of reply stated that she thought that we were here to discuss this document that had been prepared by external consultants and did not see how comments previously made could effect her input into the report.

Cllr Hodges accepted the response from Cllr Hollick, Cllr Jones stated that in her opinion she neither had personnel nor prejudice interest.

Cllr Jones left the meeting during this item at 8.45pm.

Cllrs Cartwright and Hodges stated that in his opinion the Clerk had misled the Council and negated the discussion tonight, by producing a separate sheet without putting his name on it. The Clerk informed him that when he distributed the paperwork there was a covering letter explaining the documents contained within the envelope, he pointed out that he had gone through the report and highlighted paragraphs that needed to be addressed, this was stapled behind the front page of the report.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock again reiterated that the word document was his attempt for an aide memoir to help.

Cllr Hollick questioned why councillors are now questioning this report that was given to an accredited firm to produce a report.

Chairman pointed out that the Clerk's document clearly had question marks after each statement so how could anyone think they were recommendations, he therefore decided that Council totally disregard the input from Acting Clerk Cllr Lock into this debate.

Cllr Yarwood questioned the validity of the report as it contradicted itself in sections 6.1.

Chairman reported that the Clerk had initially questioned details in the report that he had amended.

Cllr Hollick reminded Council of the letter received from APSE before the audit started that they would be using computed input from similar Council sources to assess the times required.

This report must be taken despite its flaws that can be placed firmly in this and past Councils lack of management of this service, this is in relation to 8.4 and 8.5 requires the council to prepare a strategy to implement these recommendations in 2.4 and 2.5

Having taken into account 2.3 and 8.2 that suggests the council need an additional fulltime employee from May to September, I then looked to see if the report identified any savings in relation to staff time rather than immediately put the ratepayer to additional expense of more staff

In 5.2.5 the report states we only 1.26FTE in the winter and in summer 2.7FTE: 7.2.6 suggests the council consider introducing seasonal working hours.

In 7.4.3 future procurement arrangements, states the council could possibly obtain a more complete cost by engaging a local recourse to undertake the gates duties on a part-time basis this would give us additional hours.

In 4.2 a separate contract out side normal working hours for opening the gates which is not correct, they then correct this in 5.2.4  
If it is felt that this would not be sufficient then we could consider looking at the cemetery duties.

Cllr Purves outlined areas of extra work added during the year and assumptions made in the report.

A general discussion took place on the points raised by Cllr Purves, during which Council criticised their lack of faith in the report, for its inconsistencies and assumptions.

Council need to be aware in recommendation 2 that they need to arrange checking and removal of rubbish on the play areas for weekends and Bank Holidays as part of this tender or leave it with the current staff on an overtime basis.

Cllr Hodges proposed

1. The winter and summer seasonal working October to March 20 weeks at 26hrs, March to October 32 weeks at 42hr as from this year.
2. Gates to go to tender from September
3. If members feel addition hours are required the cemetery duties can be reassessed
4. Working group to be set up to move forward 8.4 and 8.5

Seconded by Cllr Dickson For 8 against 4.

**Resolved:**

- 1/ The winter and summer seasonal working October to March 20 wk at 26hrs, March to October 32 wk at 42hr as from this year.**
- 2/ Gates to go to tender from September**
- 3/ If members feel addition hours are required the cemetery duties can be reassessed**
- 4/ Working group to be set up to move forward 8.4 and 8.5**

**Resolved: Cllrs Purves, Yarwood and Lock to met with the staff as soon as possible to apprise them of the situation.**

**Cou/146/05-06 Date of Next Meeting.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman