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## **Groby Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby.**

**Cou/322/04-05 Present.**

Members: Cllr Hagan (Chairman), Cllrs. Allison, Batty, Beck, Coates, Dickson, Emmerson, Hodges, Hollick, Jones, Kennard, Lock, Purves, Yarwood and York.

Clerk Mr J H Flower, PC Kelly, Martin Cartwright Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group and County Councillor Fraser.

**Cou/323/04-05 Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Marvin and Cllr. Allison for his late arrival.

**Cou/324/04-05 Declarations of Interest.**

Personal interests were declared by:

Cllr. Batty – All items on the Agenda as Chairman of the Groby Parish Residents Group and Planning Application 53 – 55 Markfield Road.

Cllr. York – Allotments and Residential Development Land adjacent 30 Markfield Road.

Cllr. Coates – Planning Application re 53 -55 Markfield Road.

Cllr. Hodges – Public Open Space specifically Stamford Drive.

Cllr. Kennard – Parish Plan.

Cllr. Emmerson – Allotments and Planning Application re Land adjacent 30 Markfield Road.

Cllr. Beck – Allotments (Husband and Son Allotment holders) and Planning Application Land adjacent 30 Markfield Road (near neighbour).

Cllr. Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group.

**Cou/325/04-05 Minutes of the Meetings held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.**

Copies of the minutes of the Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 were circulated to members immediately prior to the Meeting. Cllr. Batty referred to the point made by the Chairman at the previous meeting that there was plenty of time to listen to the audio tape if they had any queries and bearing in mind the lateness of this he did not see how the Parish Council could deal with the approval of the minutes and matters arising. Copies of the minutes of the Meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 were not available.

The Chairman stated there was a simple solution, he was not apologising for the Clerk as he had nothing to apologise for, the Clerk had explained to him the reasons why the minutes were late and any member could speak to the Clerk if they wished to know the details.

Cllr. Batty stated he was not totally happy with the Chairman's explanation. Cllr. Batty was very concerned at the fact that somebody whose CV rang out warning signals to one or two of us, Cllr. Yarwood was one of those who expressed concern, was taken on in the absence of the Clerk on holiday and the Clerk was unable to supervise this lady. Cllr. Batty said it was taking a bit of a gamble and it had proved out to be that way.

The Chairman suggested that this item be deferred to the next Meeting with members producing a brief written statement on any amendments/corrections to the minutes.

**Resolved the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005, and the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 be submitted for approval to the next Meeting to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.**

Cllr. Yarwood entered the Meeting during the discussion of the above item of business.

**Cou/326/04-05 Matters Arising.**

This item was deferred to the next Meeting.

*The Meeting adjourned at 7.05 pm for Public Participation.*

**Cou/327/04-05 Public Participation.**

Martin Cartwright, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group referred to the item on the Agenda regarding the budget and precept for 2005/06 and stated he supported the increase in the precept to provide improved facilities in the Parish. However he was concerned about his own personal situation as there was a belief in the Village that he was a Parish Councillor. He had done everything possible to dispel that myth but a lot of very sensible and reasonable people in the community had formed that opinion. He stated he would be continuing to trade in the Village long after the Parish Plan had been finalised and asked that when putting out information the Parish Council ensured that it did not implicate him as being part of the decision making process.

The Chairman commented that the decision had been made by councillors and that was a matter of fact, it was not his responsibility and Mr Cartwright's concerns would be addressed when the agenda item was discussed.

Mr Johnson of Pymm Ley Lane referred to the problems that were being experienced on the land adjacent to his property which fronts onto Beacon Field where it abuts Pymm Ley Lane, a matter he had brought to the attention of the Council some time ago. He was disappointed that the scheme that had been proposed and approved by the Council had not been implemented and that he had been asked to suggest alternatives. A "No Ball Game" sign had been erected but had not improved the situation and had in his view exacerbated the problem. His view was the Council should be looking for a solution not asking the residents for ideas. He felt the situation was becoming intolerable and needed a solution.

Mr Sherwin of Blue Bell Drive asked what the Council had to say about the Public Open Space adjacent to Blue Bell Drive. The Chairman stated that all councillors had had Mr Sherwin's letter and this would be dealt with under correspondence.

Mr Buckley of Highfield Road asked what progress was being made with the trees in Cowpen Spinney at the back of his house as he had raised this issue about seven or eight months ago and had heard nothing since. Cllr. Batty, who had investigated this matter with Cllr. Lock, was of the view that these particular trees were not on land owned by the Parish Council but on land owned by Persimmon Homes as part of the managed woodland area associated with their development. Mr Buckley strongly disagreed with this assertion. Mr Buckley was advised that the County Council had been instructed to carry out tree survey work on behalf of the Council and Cowpen Spinney was a priority area, Mr Buckley asked if he could be informed when the survey was to take place as he would like to be there. The Chairman did not think this would be a problem.

*The Meeting reconvened at 7.17 pm following Public Participation*

Cllr. Allison joined the Meeting during the discussion on the above item of business.

**Cou/328/04-05 Borough Councillors' Reports**

There was no Borough Councillor in attendance.

**Cou/329/04-05 Correspondence.**

The Clerk submitted a list of correspondence, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, for the action to be determined by the Council:

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Received From</i>	<i>Summary of Contents</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Mr J Sherwin, Bluebell Drive	<b>Public Open Space Bluebell Drive</b>	Agreed that in order for this matter to be given a higher priority Cllr. Hodges, Dickson and Yarwood in consultation with the Clerk seek quotations for the upgrading and implementation of a low maintenance scheme for this area.
2	Brookvale High School	<b>School Travel Plan</b>	Noted.
3	Landshapes	<b>Workshops available</b>	No member to attend.
4	Leicestershire Footpath Association	<b>Request for Membership Renewal &amp; AGM</b>	Agreed to renew at a cost of £5. Cllr. Kennard to attend AGM.

**Resolved that the actions set out in the above list be approved.**

**Cou/330/04-05 Police Report.**

PC Kelly reported on crimes in Groby for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005 as follows:

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Number</i>
Burglary – Dwelling	2
Burglary - Other	1
Robbery	0
Vehicle - Taking	1
Vehicle – Taking From	3
Vehicle - Damage	1
Non-Domestic Assaults	1
Other	27
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>36</b>

During the same period four crimes had been reported in Field Head, the main offence being the taking of a motor vehicle.

The recent assault near Quinto Cranes was still being investigated with a number of leads which would take some time to follow up.

The Village Centre with youths was still a hotspot.

The Chairman referred to a meeting that had taken place during the informal Planning Meeting the previous Saturday with the Police about the problem in the Village with the groups of youths that were assembling. A number of alternatives to address the problem had been looked at but what was being suggested was that the young people themselves should be given the opportunity to put forward their views and say what they want in an attempt to find a resolution to the problem before it gets out of hand. The Police were to come back with some ideas and dates for such a meeting. PC Kelly indicated a date of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March for the Meeting. PC Kelly also referred to the dispersal order that was being considered and he had been asked by his Sergeant if in view of the proposed meeting the Parish Council would wish this to be expedited

immediately or whether it would be prudent to leave such a decision to after the meeting. Members felt the order should be left in abeyance until after the proposed meeting in March.

#### **Cou/331/04-05 Parish Plan Update**

Martin Cartwright, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group updated members on progress with the Parish Plan. Attached at Appendix A to these minutes is a full transcript of Mr Cartwright's update.

Members considered a request for funding of £160 for the provision of A4 manila envelopes over printed with the words "Parish Plan" for use in the delivery and return of the questionnaires.

In answer to a question from Cllr. Batty, Mr Cartwright confirmed there would be collection points throughout the Parish for the return of the questionnaires.

Mr Cartwright confirmed that an article would appear in the next edition of Spotlight very much as his report to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Jones expressed concern at Mr Cartwright's predicament of being mistaken for a Councillor and asked if the Parish Council could do something to alleviate this. Cllr. Dickson said he had personally written to the Spotlight Magazine on this topic.

The Chairman thanked both PC Kelly and Mr Cartwright for their attendance. Members congratulated Mr Cartwright with a round of applause. The Chairman also said that it should be recorded for the record the Parish Council's sincerest appreciation to PC Kelly for his commitment to the Village and to resolving its problems to every ones satisfaction. Members also applauded Pc Kelly.

#### **Cou/332/04-05 County Councillor's Report.**

The Chairman stated he had inadvertently removed this item from the agenda but as Cllr. Fraser was in attendance he felt as a matter of courtesy that he should be allowed to give his report. Members agreed with this suggestion. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Fraser to the Meeting.

Cllr. Fraser stated he was pleased to be back following his illness and looked forward to continuing the good working relations he had had with the Parish Council in the past.

A50 – He referred to various issues which were ongoing in respect of the A50 and stated that if he could help the Parish or be part of it, he was more than happy to do that.

Landfill – He felt there was some confusion here. He stated the County Council do not run the site, they were the Planning Authority. The Environment Agency ran the site and granted the Licence so any extension of tipping will have to be put in front of the Environment Agency and there would be full consultation with all interested parties. He suggested that the Parish Council may wish to invite the Environment Agency to come along and explain what was happening. Members agreed this was a good idea and Cllr. Fraser agreed to liaise with the Clerk on this matter.

Ratby Road Parking Restrictions – This had gone before the Cabinet and had been approved. It would be implemented in the next financial year.

Cllr. Fraser said he would circulate his contact details through the Clerk and is prepared to work with the Parish Council on issues as he had done in the past.

Cllr. Dickson stated he had attended an Older Persons' Forum at Hinckley and Bosworth BC when he had been told by a councillor there that the position of the crossing would depend on what the local school wanted. Cllr. Fraser refuted this suggestion as there was to be full consultation with all interested parties and the Education Department was just another consultee.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Fraser for his report and that he was pleased to see him back on his feet, so to speak.

#### **Cou/333/04-05 Correspondence Continued.**

The Clerk submitted a list of correspondence, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, detailing correspondence received/actioned by him for the period 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005 to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The Clerk answered members' questions thereon.

Cllr. Batty referred to an e-mail from Richard Robinson, the Prospective Labour Party Candidate for Charnwood and questioned whether he should be involving himself in matters that were the Parish's responsibility. The Clerk sought clarification on how he should respond. It was agreed the Clerk should reply on a factual basis. The Chairman felt and stated that this Chamber was no place for the playing of petty party political politics.

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

**Cou/334/04-05 Payment of Accounts.**

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Cash	Petty Cash	100.00
Various	January Salaries	3845.27
Charnwood & Highmeres Hort	Etesia Ride-on Winter service	526.20
George Walker Ltd	Posts for steps @ Castell Park	30.03
ESPO	Stationery	2.17
M Bharmal	Various hardware	45.58
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	105.00
Hacker Young	Professional Services for Annual Return 31/3/04	763.75
British Telecommunications plc	Internet services 01.01.05 - 31.03.05	105.71
<b>Total</b>		<b>£5,523.71</b>

**Resolved the payment of the above accounts be approved.**

**Cou/335/04-05 Budget 2005-06 Publicity**

The Chairman stated as a matter of record that the budget and precept had nothing to do with the Parish Plan Steering Group or Martin Cartwright, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group.

The Clerk asked members to consider two issues regarding publicity in respect of the 2005/06 Budget. Firstly as there was a requirement to include a leaflet with the Council Tax demand, as the precept exceeded £100,000, how was this to be dealt with and secondly was a suitable article going to be included in the Spotlight publication.

It was suggested that Cllr. Hollick could assist with obtaining the estimates for the printing of the leaflet.

It was also suggested that the leaflet when produced should form the basis of the article for the March edition of the Spotlight.

Cllr. Batty asked if a copy of the statutory notice that appeared in the Mercury relating to Quarry Playing Field could, as a matter of courtesy to residents, be published in the next edition of the Spotlight to ensure the widest possible circulation.

The Chairman stated he had received a telephone call from a correspondent of the Leicester Mercury Newspaper seeking a statement on the Precept increase and sought authority to reply on the Council's behalf. Members were of the view that it should be a positive response and about investing in the Parish to provide improved facilities. The Chairman remarked that it also had to reflect reality and the "catch-up" which had had to be made.

**Resolved that:**

- i) **The Clerk produces the leaflet to accompany the demand notice, a draft to be circulated to all members and should there be any dispute as to its contents the matter be considered at the Meeting of the Council to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.**
- ii) **An article based on the leaflet be included in the March edition of the Spotlight.**
- iii) **Although the Parish Council has met its statutory obligation by placing the appropriate notice in the Leicester Mercury on two consecutive weeks, a copy of the statutory notice in respect of Quarry Playing Field be included in the February edition of the Spotlight.**
- iv) **The Chairman be authorised to respond on the Council's behalf to the Leicester Mercury.**

**Cou/336/04-05 Shrub Bed Beacon Field.**

Members considered the current situation with the work that had been proposed on this site and that had not been carried out due to the waterlogged state of the ground in October when the work was due to start.

In view of the problems that the residents were suffering it was agreed action needed to be taken by the Parish Council rather than waiting for residents to make suggestions. Members had various suggestions for alleviating the problems but it was felt that the most appropriate way to move the matter forward was to have a site meeting with those residents affected by the nuisance invited to attend.

**Resolved that a Site Meeting takes place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at 10.30 am.**

**Cou/337/04-05 Approval of Shortlist of Contractors for Footpaths Contract – Marina/Castell Park.**

The Clerk requested that the requirement to advertise for suitable contractors was waived and the Leicestershire County Council Small Works List was utilised to draw up a shortlist of suitable contractors for this work. The Clerk also submitted a list of suitable contractors taken from the County Council list.

Cllr. Batty felt that these were not necessarily the most appropriate contractors for the job that the Parish Council was doing and may not represent value for money. Cllr. Dickson felt this work should go to a small local contractor and quoted a number of local firms who did this type of work.

It was pointed out that if the Parish Council followed its Standing Orders significant costs would be incurred in advertising and carrying out financial and technical vetting on prospective tenderers.

**Resolved that:**

- i) **Standing Orders be waived and the Leicestershire County Council Small Works List be used to draw up a list of suitable contractors.**
- ii) **The follow contractors be included on the shortlist:**

**Aggregate Industries UK Ltd.  
BDP Surfacing Ltd.  
Danaher & Walsh (Civil Engineering) Ltd  
P M Harris Ltd  
Premier Road Surfacing Ltd  
Leicestershire Highways**

**Cou/338/04-05 Castell/Marina Park – Mini Goal Posts**

The Clerk requested the Parish Council to determine the location of the mini goal posts to be positioned on Castell/Marina Park. Members felt the best position was on the raised bank as this was flatter more away from properties and slightly drier. It was agreed Cllr. Kennard would mark the precise location.

**Resolved that the mini goal posts be erected on the raised bank and Cllr. Kennard mark the precise location.**

**Cou/339/04-05 RoSPA Play Safety Inspection**

**Resolved that RoSPA are appointed to carry out the 2005/06 inspection of play equipment etc.**

**Cou/340/04-05 Quality Parish Council.**

Cllr. Hodges had asked this item to be included on the agenda and thanked the Chairman and Clerk for facilitating his request. His concern was that whilst the Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group and his team had done an excellent job in moving the Parish Plan forward, the Parish Council may miss vital funding if it had not achieved Quality Parish Council status. He quoted a number of the criteria that had to be met and suggested in view of the previous commitments made by the Parish Council and has it had not been moved forward it should now be a matter of priority.

Members discussed the issue at some length and particularly the best way to move the matter forward. A Working Group was suggested to look at what had already been achieved, what needed to be achieved and how it could be achieved. In view of the importance of this issue some members felt it would be better dealt with at a Special Council Meeting.

The Clerk was requested to ensure that all members had got copies of the appropriate background papers.

Cllr. Purves proposed a Working Group be established to consider the way forward and report back to the Council. Her proposal was duly seconded. The Chairman reminded members of its decision to do away with sub-committees and he most certainly did not wish to see such an important issue, as portrayed by Cllr. Hodges and others, being assigned to any group; he felt sure Cllr. Batty for one would concur this was a matter for the full council. Cllr. Batty concurred that in his view this was a matter that should be dealt with by full council. Cllr. Hollick proposed an amendment that was duly seconded, that it should be the Full Council and not a Working Group. On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

**Resolved that a Special Council Meeting be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 commencing at 7.00 pm to consider a way forward.**

**Cou/341/04-05 Planning Applications.**

Cllr. Yarwood declared a personal interest in Application 04/01333/CONDIT and remained in the Council Chamber taking part in the debate. Cllr. Emmerson declared a personal interest in Application 04/00853/FUL and left the Council Chamber.

<i>Reference Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
04/01333/CONDIT	Watford Commercials 55 Markfield Road	Variation of Conditions to allow a minimum access drive width of 3.8 metres to serve plot 1 only condition 10 to delay the reinstatement of the Markfield Road footway and formation of temporary access.	<b>Strongly object.</b> With regard to Condition 10 no development should take place until remediation has taken place to that part of the site where it is intended that the access road is provided as this constitutes development. It does however appear to the Parish Council that this work has already commenced and soil and building material has appeared on site and has been placed on top of what may be contaminated ground. The Parish Council's view is this work should be stopped immediately until the issue with the possible contamination has been clarified.  With regard to Condition 4 it is considered that the only

			<p>way to provide a safe and usable footway is by the provision of 1.8 metre wide metalled footway as originally envisaged.</p> <p>The Parish Council further requests that this matter <b>should be determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee</b> and not under delegated powers.</p>
04/00853/FUL	Land adj 30 Markfield Road	Residential development of 13 No units	<p><b>Object.</b> Nothing in this application addresses the concerns raised in respect of the previous application apart from the reduction in the number of units and the removal of the road humps.</p> <p>The Parish Council still has concerns about the limited parking, the provision of a buffer zone, the noise assessment, the type and style of houses being proposed which are not considered appropriate for this important location within the Conservation Area, the sewer capacity, the velux style windows and the overdevelopment of the site.</p> <p>The Parish Council is also greatly concerned that conservation standards are not being fairly applied throughout the Conservation Area by the Planning Authority</p> <p>The Parish further requests that a decision on this application is deferred until a site meeting has taken place with representatives of the Parish Council.</p>

The Chairman reminded members, in respect of Application 04/00853/FUL, that a solution satisfactory to all parties, and not least of which is the developer(s), must be achieved or the danger had to be faced of a Planning Inquiry and the consequences that implied if lost.

**Resolved that the Clerk notifies Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council of the above comments on planning application.**

Cllr. Emmerson rejoined the Meeting.

**Cou/342/04-05 New National Agreement on the Terms and Conditions for Clerks**

The Chairman reported the receipt of a new National Agreement on the Terms and Conditions for Clerks.

**Resolved that the new National Agreement be implemented.**

**Cou/343/04-05 Playing Fields Committee.**

Cllr. Kennard reported verbally on the discussions that had taken place at the Playing Fields Committee that had met on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005. The Committee had recommended that residents in Forest Rise, Forest View and Forest Close should be consulted on the proposed use by Groby Juniors FC of a football pitch at Quarry Playing Field and asked to give their views. Cllr. Kennard suggested the Clerk's letter to Groby Juniors FC setting out the Council's understanding of its requirements, that the Football Club had confirmed was correct, should be used as the basis for the questionnaire. Cllr. Kennard agreed to work with the Clerk to produce a questionnaire and distribute it.

**Resolved that:**

- i) **The residents in Forest Rise, Forest View and Forest Rise be consulted on the proposed use of Quarry Playing Field.**
- ii) **The Clerk's letter to Groby Juniors FC forms the basis of the questionnaire to seek residents' views.**

**Cou/344/04-05 Bank Reconciliations.**

The Clerk submitted bank reconciliations for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 for the Current Account, Deposit Account and Money Market Account.

**Resolved the reconciliations be noted.**

**Cou/345/04-05 Date of Next Meeting.**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30 pm at the Council Offices.

**Cou/346/04-05 Special Council Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.**

The Chairman mentioned that it had been brought to his attention that the Parish Council had not followed its own Standing Orders when debating and voting on Cllr. Allison's motion when the proposers of the motions on the agenda paper had withdrawn their motions. He stated that this would now be an item on the next agenda and Cllr. Allison agreed to make his proposal a notice of motion. The Chairman sought an assurance from members that they would support the motion at the next meeting to rectify this technicality; this they did.

The Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....Date.....  
Chairman