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Groby Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on
Monday 21st March 2005 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby.**

Cou/388/04-05 Present.

Members: Cllr Hagan (Chairman), Cllrs. Allison, Batty, Coates, Dickson, Emmerson, Hodges, Hollick, Jones, Kennard, Lock, Marvin, Purves, Yarwood and York.
(The Clerk had received an apology from Cllr. Beck).

Clerk Mr J H Flower. Borough Councillor Collins. Members of the Public.

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the second Parish Council Meeting of March and went on to say that there was obviously a burning issue (*unauthorised travellers site off Newtown Linford Road*) that had brought people out to the Meeting tonight but announced on the grounds of health and safety and complaints from people outside the Chamber who could not get in, that the Meeting would be convened, it would deal with Payment of Accounts and then leave it for Cllr. Collins to explain to the members of the public what had been happening at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the Parish Council could not deal with the members of the public in the Chamber. The Chairman asked how members felt before carrying on. Cllr. Batty thought it was unfortunate that people could not be accommodated in the Chamber; it was obvious it was a public health issue, but he had to say that he honestly believed that this was a matter that local residents were looking for the Parish Council to take a lead on. The Chairman said of that there was no doubt and stated Cllr. Batty knew the capacity of the Chamber as did other members of the Parish Council. Cllr. Hollick in response to a question about the possible use of the Village Hall said that this had been investigated but as it was being decorated it was unavailable as an alternative venue. He went on to say the other alternative was the Ex Servicemen's Club but parish council meetings were not allowed to be held in licensed premises.

The Chairman at this point stated the Meeting was convened and asked for a motion to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Payment of Accounts to be considered and passed. It was agreed to take the Payment of Accounts as the next item of business.

Cou/389/04-05 Payment of Accounts

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>
		<i>£</i>
Inland Revenue	Tax & National Ins	1595.91
Groby Contractors	Repairs to trailer	88.12
Granart	Rose Plaque	39.00
M Merrigan	Works to Ratby Road / Orchard Close Allts	600.00
Anstey Skip Hire	Skip for allotments	120.00
Vipans (1960) Ltd	Hardware	29.90
Oldham & Manton Ltd	Budget leaflets 05/06	144.50
Alice (graphics)	Parish Plan envelopes	188.00
George Walker Ltd	Allotment Fence Ratby Road	55.23

Green Wave Technology Ltd	Website hosting fee	235.00
Mike B's Security Locksmith Ltd	Keys x 2	13.00
Thrust/Gulf Account Cards	Fuel	150.26
MAP Waste	Waste Collection	35.25
National Playing Fields	Annual Membership	25.00
HBBC	Office & Cemetery Rates	226.49
	Total	£3,545.66

Resolved the payment of the above accounts be approved.

Cou/390/04-05 Unauthorised Travellers Site off Newtown Linford Lane.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Collins to address the member of the public inside the Chamber but commented those outside may not be able to hear.

Cllr. Collins suggested he made his comments in the Chamber and then made the same comments to those outside. This was agreed by the Chairman.

Cllr Collins stated that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council discovered the land had been purchased about three weeks ago. On becoming aware of this Cllr. Collins went to the Council Offices to enquire what was happening and was told that officers were about to serve planning contravention notices on three possible purchasers. They were served on a Mr McDonough and on behalf of the other two. Two notices had been returned stating the recipients had no interest in the land and therefore there seemed to be one owner who was Mr McDonough. The third that was served on the site by Cllr. Collins and the officers of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had not yet been returned; they had twenty one days to return it and similarly no planning application had been received. Cllr. Collins had spoken to Mr McDonough to ask him his plans and Mr McDonough had said he wanted to establish a maximum of six vans on the land and that he wanted refuse removal and assistance with emptying their toilet. Obviously this could not be done as it was an illegal site and as far as Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council were concerned they could take no further action on the matter legally and properly until the twenty one days had expired. Following the twenty one days notices would be served and the proper action taken to remove the illegal camp if a planning application has not been received. If a planning application had been received it would be duly considered in the Planning Committee and comments made upon it. There are questions regarding site access, possible contamination, tree preservation orders and various other matters that need to be decided. Cllr. Collins stated it would be reviewed by the Planning Board and he could take no view on what they will do but if it should be accepted then that stage would have to be gone through, if it was rejected a planning appeal situation would have to be gone through. He went on to say that at the moment Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is in a rather invidious situation regarding the recent decision in Court by a judge which said that although the travellers human rights had been infringed, he referred it to the Law Lords and it would not be until the Autumn when it would be reviewed by the Law Lords. This would exacerbate the situation in as much as that there would be no movement and further establishments of sites might be expected. This is a problem because there is no legal process, this having been stopped by the decision of the judge, for having illegal camps established without permission removed. Cllr. Collins also understood the Government through Mr Prescott is actually asking planning authorities to take special action regarding travellers which Cllr. Collins found to be slightly contrary to the law of the land. Unfortunately Hinckley and Bosworth had to do what the Government asked. Cllr. Collins could understand why most people in Groby were worried about this and he personally was. He was in contact daily with the Council Planning Department and he awaits information as it happens. He is asking how things can be done and he had taken one specific action, which he did not expand on, which might have a reasonable chance of getting a solution but he could not promise it would but it was a different approach. Finally Cllr. Collins stated that until a planning application was received the Council do not know what the travellers wanted to do as they could change their minds at anytime; there may also be other people owning portions of that land although notices were served on three owners That was as far as he could go but he did understand the problems and the concerns of the people of Groby and it was foremost in his mind and he would be taking action on it every day to make sure a proper job was being done.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Collins if he believed that the officers and resources of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had been properly applied to the fullest to ensure this situation is best dealt with within the confines and the constraints of the law.

Cllr. Collins responded that within the confines and constraints of the law Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had acted properly and fairly and efficiently.

Cou/391/04-05 Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 30th March 2005 subject to a suitable venue being available to accommodate the numbers attending this Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.14 pm.

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