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Groby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 31st March 2005 at the Village Hall, Leicester Road, Groby.

Cou/392/04-05 Present.

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

Clerk Mr J H Flower, Borough Councillor Collins, Mr P Reid, Chief Planning Officer, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP and members of the public.

Cou/393/04-05 Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs. Emmerson and Purves.

The Chairman commented that as the room had a capacity of 120 persons there was a problem in that all the members of the public who were in attendance could not be accommodated in accordance with the fire regulations and with the public outside being denied access, banging loudly on the windows, he asked the Parish Council what it wanted to do. He made the point that the meeting was not a Parish Meeting or a Public Meeting or a single issue meeting but a Meeting of the Parish Council. After considering a number of suggestions it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to enable the Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP and others to address the members of the public in the Village Hall Car Park on the issue of the unauthorised development by travellers off Newtown Linford Lane.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7.17 pm.

Following the conclusion of the meeting in the Car Park the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council expressed his sincerest thanks to the Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP for keeping matters calm and so ably dealing with the circumstances and also acknowledged the travellers, some of whom attended the meeting in the Car Park had got "bottle". With regard to the title deed this had been made clear during the meeting in the Car Park that it was only possessionary.

The Meeting reconvened at 8.22 pm.

Cou/394/04-05 Declarations of Interest.

Personal interests were declared by:

Cllr. Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group.

Cllr. Yarwood – Agenda Items 8 & 9 and Correspondence Item 6.

Cllr. Beck – Correspondence Item 6.

Cllr. Kennard – Parish Plan.

Cllr. Hodges – Public Open Space specifically Stamford Drive.

Cllr. Coates – Correspondence Item 6.

Cllr. Batty – All items on the Agenda as Chairman of the Groby Parish Residents Group.

In view of the limited time available it was agreed at this point to prioritise the remaining items on the Agenda with any items not being dealt with being carried forward to the Meeting on Monday 4th April 2004.

Cou/395/04-05 Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 7th March 2005 and 21st March 2005.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th March 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, be agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Minute Cou/371/04-05 – Matters Arising – In the fourth paragraph third line change "send" to "spend".

Minute Cou/372/04-05 – Public Participation – In the first paragraph third line after the word “four” insert the word “foot”.

Minute Cou/381/04-05 – John Deere Tractor Mower Replacement – In the third paragraph third line delete the word “unvalued” and insert the word “undervalued”.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st March 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to members, be agreed as a true record.

(Cllr. Hollick joined the meeting during the discussion of the above item of business).

Cou/396/04-05 Matters Arising.

Minute Cou/371/04-05 Matters Arising – Minute Cou/351-04-05 – Matter Arising - Public Participation – Cllr. Batty reported that he and Cllr. Dickson had now met with Mr Buckley and inspected the area of his complaint with regard to the trees and advised him there would be a report when the survey information comes back from the County Council. The Clerk was asked to pursue the carrying out of the survey work with the County Council.

Cou/371/04-05 Matters Arising - Minute Cou/364/04-05- Planning Application land adjacent 30 Markfield Road – Cllr. Coates referred to the request to the Planning Authority for a copy of the officers report to members which she felt had not been raised with Mr Reid Chief Planning Officer when he visited last week. The situation was still that it was not known what information had been given to members by officers at the Planning Committee when this matter was considered.

Minute Cou/372/04-05 – Public Participation – Cllr. Batty referred to a letter that had been circulated to members from Mr Lewis of Bluebell Drive apologising for moving his fence and encroaching onto the amenity area and stating he would be reinstating the fence to its original position by the 31st March 2005. A member of the public confirmed that part of the fence had been reinstated but not all of it.

Minute Cou/383/04-05 – Planning Concerns re 53-55 Markfield Road – Cllr. Batty clarified that he did have a personal interest declared at the Meeting. Cllr. Batty went on to say that at the meeting with members on the 25th March 2005, Mr Reid Chief Planning Officer of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council was given a copy of his letter together with all the attachments and Mr Reid agreed to provide a detailed response.

The Meeting adjourned at 8.35 pm for Public Participation.

Cou/397/04-05 Public Participation.

There were no questions from members of the public

The Meeting reconvened at 8.36 pm following Public Participation.

Cou/398/04-05 Correspondence.

This item of business was deferred to the Meeting on the 4th April 2005.

Cou/399/04-05 Playing Fields Committee

This item of business was deferred to the Meeting on the 4th April 2005.

Cou/400/04-05 Shrub Bed Pymm Ley Lane/Beacon Close.

This item of business was deferred to the Meeting on the 4th April 2005.

Cou/401/04-05 John Deere Tractor Mower Replacement.

The Clerk reported on the further enquiries that he had made with regard to the John Deere 1445 being sold by a local company. The mower in question had turned out to be an 1145 not a 1445, its year of manufacture was questionable and the price being asked was too high. As a consequence this enquiry had not been pursued further. The Clerk went on to report that he had sourced a John Deere 1445 being sold by Palehouse Groundcare Equipment of Sussex. It had a front rotary mower attachment with rear discharge and also came with a flail attachment for use where long grass may be encountered. It would come with a three months

parts and labour warranty and would be delivered. The cost was £7,500 plus VAT. Palehouse would be prepared to purchase the Council's John Deere 955 Tractor/Mower for £2,000.

The Clerk asked members to consider if they wished to accept the £2000 offered by Palehouse or if they wished to retain the Tractor /Mower as a backup or see if a better price could be achieved by a private sale.

The Clerk answered members' questions and reiterated the reasons for changing the equipment.

Borough Councillor Collins suggested as an alternative a warranty based on number of hours used may be more beneficial.

Resolved that:

- i) **The John Deere 1445 Rotary Mower on offer from Palehouse Groundcare Equipment be purchased at a cost of £7,500.**
- ii) **The John Deere 955 Tractor/Mower be disposed of by private sale providing a price in excess of £2,000 can be achieved.**

(Cllr. Hodges and Cllr. Yarwood voted against the motion)

Cou/402/04-05 Unauthorised Development off Newtown Linford Road

The Chairman asked if any member had any comments to make on this item.

Cllr. Batty felt the meeting that had taken place outside in the Car Park had been very worthwhile and had indicated where the Village stood on this issue, what they expect the various councils to do on their behalf and how strongly the Village feels about development on that side of the A50.

Members considered how they could best express the Council's opposition to the development that was taking place on the Klondyke Site.

Cllr. York expressed concern at the fact that the land was being cleared although she was not sure anything could be done about it.

Cllr. Beck stated that some personal opinions had been expressed to her by a minority of people that they were worried that the Village was not welcoming to travellers.

Cllr. Batty reminded members of what had happened at Glenfield where travellers had bought a piece of land from Severn Trent for £10,000, put in for planning and Blaby District Council, the Parish Council and the Glenfield Action Group had worked very closely together to oppose the application. When the application was refused, the travellers then took it to appeal, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister immediately called it in for a public inquiry rather than it going to appeal. The Public Inquiry was very expensive and long drawn out but eventually the Inspector had thrown it out. There had been a lot of team work between the various parties concerned and Cllr. Batty had all the documentation from the Public Inquiry, the Glenfield Action Group and the Parish Council and felt that all members should make themselves aware of the way all parties pulled together on this so we are aware of exactly what happened and if there are any lessons to be learned. The land at Glenfield had been offered to the Glenfield Parish Council for £300,000.

Resolved that this Parish Council takes note of the Village's reaction this evening and supports all efforts to follow through the planning process as vigorously as possible and will continue to liaise and pursue the Planning Authority and its officers to make sure that no stone is left unturned in seeing this matter through to a successful conclusion.

The Chairman went on to say that he had never before seen a situation that had occurred over the last two weeks where people had been coming into the Office in tears because of what they had been told. There had been documents put on the Parish Council Notice Boards which would be subject to further debate. He had also spoken to the MP about it.

Cou/403/04-05 Dog Warden Service.

This item of business was deferred to the Meeting on the 4th April 2005.

Cou/404/04-05 Planning Applications.

Cllr. Lock reported that he had attended a site meeting on Monday 23rd March with Cllr. Purves at 53 – 55 Markfield Road with Members and Officers from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council concerning the application 04/01333/CONDIT to vary conditions 4 and 10 imposed by planning permission 01/00062/OUT. As the planning application had not been discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on the 23rd March 2005 he had not had an opportunity to report back on the site meeting or obtain agreement to attend the Planning Meeting on the following Tuesday to speak on the application. As a consequence he had provided Cllr. Collins with some written notes of the concerns, which he had agreed with Cllr. Purves, who had agreed to convey these to the Planning Committee which he duly did. Unfortunately the concerns that were expressed had no impact and the application to vary the conditions was approved.

<i>Reference Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
05/00135/FUL	4 Kings Way	Extensions and alterations to dwelling.	No objection subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning applications or conditions outstanding.
05/00242/FUL	14 Charnwood Drive	Erection of Conservatory	No objection subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning applications or conditions outstanding.

Resolved that the Clerk informs Hinckley and Bosworth of the Parish Council's comments on planning applications as set out in the table above.

Cou/405/04-05 Outstanding Council Decisions.

This item of business was deferred to the Meeting on the 4th April 2005.

Cou/406/04-05 Clerk's Pay and Conditions of Service.

The Chairman reported on the implementation of the new Conditions of Service of Local Clerks with regard to the Clerk's remuneration, contact of employment and job specification.

Resolved that the members of the Staffing Committee meet on Friday 1st April to consider the Pay and Conditions Booklet and the information contained therein and report their conclusions to the next Meeting of the Parish Council.

Cou/407/04-05 Bluebell Drive Amenity Area

Cllr. Yarwood reported that he, Cllrs. Dickson and Hodges having read the file and interpreted the detail contained therein, to the best of their ability, had met with two landscape contractors on site to discuss the proposals and seek their views on what was needed to bring the area up to an adoptable standard Cllr. Yarwood also referred to the problem that was being experienced with the grassed area in the centre that was being used for playing football. Cllr. Batty also referred to the fact that there was a Severn Trent balancing tank under this area the responsibility for which needed clarifying and legal advice taken before any agreement was entered into.

Resolved that quotations are sought from the two landscape contractors referred to by Cllr. Yarwood for bringing the area up to an adoptable standard and the matter be brought back to the Parish Council when the quotations have been received.

Cou/408/04-05 Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 4th April 2005 at 7.00 pm at the Council Offices.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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

