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Groby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on
Monday, 7 November 2005 at the Parish Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/225/05-06 Present

Members: Cllr Hagan (Chairman), Cllrs Dickson, Yarwood, Jones, Beck, Purves, Cartwright, Marvin, Coates, Lock, Kennard, Emerson, Batty, Hollick
The Clerk
Cllr Hodges arrived at 9.30 p.m.
County Councillor Mr. D. Sprason

Cou/226/05-06 Apologies for absence

Cllr York, Borough Councillor Collins

Cou/227/05-06 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Batty – All items on the Agenda as Chairman of Groby Parish Residents Group, all items that may relate to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, as a resident in item 12 Budget Setting, Marina Park Consultants, correspondence items 16201, 16229.

Cllr Lock – Planning Applications

Cllr Coates – Nothing that she is aware of

Cllr Kennard – Parish Plan, Bluebell Drive Amenity Area, Security Quarry Playing Field, Parish Plan

Cllr Purves – Planning – Bradgate Landfill Site

Cllr Cartwright – Item 12 as a resident, Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Plan

Cllr Beck – Allotments, Druck, any matters in correspondence that she is not yet aware of

Cllr Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group, Item 12 as a resident, Bluebell Drive Amenity Area, Parish Plan

Cllr Hollick - Village Hall, Allotments

Cou/228/05-06 Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 17 October 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Minute Cou/204/05-06 – Add Borough Councillor Collin's apologies

Minute Cou/152/05-06 – change "dispersion" to "dispersal"

Minute Cou/090/05-06 – The two sentences should be separate items as they refer to different items.

Minute Cou/133/05-06 – Add – Councillor Marvin asked when will the fence be moved.

Minute Cou/142/05-06 – Add to third paragraph – The work to be paid for from the Allotments Budget.

Minute Cou/152/05-06 – insert Cllr Batty reported that he had regular contact with PC Kelly, it is accepted by the police that there is a problem in Groby at the moment with underage drinking and criminal damage.

Minute Cou/157/05-06- Klondyke – **add** Cllr Batty reported that he acted in respect of the remaining plot owners.

Cllr Batty reported on a letter received from Rt. Hon. S. Dorrell MP in support that is available in the office.

16109 – Leicestershire County Council - this should be two separate items.
First Paragraph - Cllrs Batty York and Cartwright are endeavouring to liaise with PC Kelly and the new Inspector.

Minute Cou/187/05-06 – Delete 26 Castell Drive. **Add** – The Planning Application for 142 Leicester Road has been recommended to be dealt with under delegated powers.

Land fronting Ratby Road – Add after Health & Safety Officers – of Mark Jarvis & Co.

Minute Cou/213/05-06 – County Councillor’s Report

Add – County Councillor Sprason for Field Head Ward and Councillor Fraser was unable to attend.

Minute Cou/215/05-06 – Borough Councillor’s Report

Paragraph 3 to read: The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act has now passed through Parliament. **Delete** – The Green Paper

Paragraph 4 to read: A Community Support Officer has been dedicated to Groby, Ratby and Markfield.

The final paragraph to be deleted.

Cou/229/05-06 Police Report

Two representatives of Leicestershire Constabulary were present. PC Kelly said that sometime ago he had asked for members of the Parish Council to assist on Halloween and Bonfire Night. Cllrs Batty, Marvin and Emerson came forward to assist.

Unfortunately due to insurance reasons PC Kelly had not been able to take members up on their offer. If at some time in the future assistance from the Parish Council is requested there will be equipment available to help out.

PC Kelly gave the crime figures for October:

Cllr Batty confirmed what had been discussed after the Parish Plan meeting last week. He had spoken to the Inspector who confirmed he was opposed to reintroducing the dispersal order. Youth issues had also been discussed and hopefully a meeting can be arranged including all parties.

Cllr Purves said that it had been brought to her attention yesterday that a transit van full of people with ruck sacks got out at Martinshaw Wood at approximately 9.00 p.m. and they had been seen on another occasion at night at Ladywood. On both occasions they do not leave until the morning. Cllr Purves expressed her concerns for wildlife.

PC Kelly said that if vehicle registration numbers can be provided then the matter can be investigated.

The Chairman referred to the speeding issue at Secheveral Way raised by a resident some weeks ago. PC Kelly replied that he had heard complaints about speeding at

Secheveral Way. He said people must write to the Inspector who will then pass it on to the relevant department and it will be dealt with.

It was agreed that The Clerk would write to the Inspector who will then hopefully look into the matter.

Cou/230/05-06 Matters arising

**Minute Cou/171/05-06 – Correspondence Item 16085
Link Rise Dog Bin**

The Clerk reported that the letter to Rt. Hon. S. Dorrell MP has not yet been sent. It is on her list of things to do. She will send the letter tomorrow.

Minute Cou/187-05-06 – Ratby Road Shops

The step at the above shops was repaired within 48 hours of the last meeting.

Minute Cou/211/05-06 – Planning Applications

Field Head Hotel – Cllr Batty has met with officers of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. A valid application is still awaited. In the meantime Charnwood Borough Council is issuing an enforcement notice and the two authorities are working together. There will be a special meeting to which members of the Parish Council will be invited to attend.

Druck – Cllr Batty said that the request for a site meeting had been ignored. Planning consent was granted under delegated powers.

26 Castell Drive - A resident had attended the Saturday morning planning application meeting. Cllr Batty had explained the situation to him.

Minute Cou/214/05-06 – Correspondence

Correspondence Item 16205 – Sycamore Drive – A member of the public had indicated that through his work he was involved with a fencing contractor. He had obtained a quote from Charnwood Fencing in the amount of £1398.00. This was more than had been anticipated.

Cllr Purves expressed her concern about the Council waiting too long to replace the fence. She said there are a number of people with disabilities who take their cars into the car park and go for short walks. Parking along the roadside has always been a problem.

Discussion took place and Cllr Hollick proposed that two further quotations for fencing are obtained to the same specification as that provided by Charnwood Fencing. This was seconded by Cllr Yarwood and agreed.

Cllr Yarwood will endeavour to obtain the two further quotations by the weekend.

Minute Cou/090/05-06 – Speed Limit on A50

Cllr Lock confirmed that officers will attend the next Parish Council meeting on 21 November and give a full presentation of the proposals for the toucan crossing/cycle crossing on the A50. The Clerk said the plans would be in the office on 14 November for inspection prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned for Public Participation at 8.00 p.m.

Cou/231/05-06 Public Participation

Mr. J. Sherwin asked why Klondyke is not an Agenda Item when it is such an emotional issue. Could it be an Agenda item? He asked for an update on the situation regarding Klondyke. He said that he gets the impression that there is lukewarm interest from the Council on this issue.

Mr. P. Hammond said that he understands now why he does not come to many meetings of the Parish Council. He said that he has listened to the Council go through the minutes and as a resident he is disgusted at the Parish Council.

Mr. Hammond referred to the long standing issue of Cowpen Spinney. He noticed that it is on the Agenda and is going to be talked about. He said he had written to the Borough Council to ask if he could do something to his own trees. He then heard that the Borough Council had put in for planning permission which Mr. Hammond knew nothing about. He then received a letter from the County Council informing him that he must cut his trees back because they are obscuring the light in the street. The Borough Council is telling him he can't cut his trees back without permission whilst the County Council is telling him he must cut his trees back.

Mr. Hammond asked for clarification of who has the highest jurisdiction over trees?

Cllr Batty replied for the Borough Council. Any work on trees has to have planning permission which is normally up to the resident to obtain. He said that anyone can apply for planning permission on another person's land but must have that person's permission to go ahead with the work. The Borough Council is the local planning authority and is responsible for all planning decisions.

The Tree Protection Officers are based at the County Council and they would lay down what is required in respect of tree work.

Cllr Batty asked Mr. Hammond to contact him and he will find out from the Borough Council who he needs to speak to.

Mr. Hammond referred to Cowpen Spinney and Persimmon Homes. He brought this matter to the Council some time ago and knows some work has been done. He said the procrastination coming out of Persimmon is unacceptable. Mr. Hammond is of the opinion that if something is not done soon someone will get seriously injured. The trees are in an unacceptable state. If something is not done soon he will personally get Health & Safety Executive Officers to pressure the Parish Council to get something done.

A resident registered his delight that he has copies of the minutes although in draft form. He said he was puzzled because there were no answers to questions asked in public participation. He said what was the point of asking a question if no answer was given.

A resident referred to Bluebell Drive Amenity Area. He said this item was on the Agenda 4 years ago and nothing happened. It is now back on the agenda because he asked for it to be put on again 6 months ago. The gentleman was informed that this item will be discussed this evening.

Mr. Hammond said that there is a general feeling that when Klondyke is discussed it is in Closed Session. He was informed that there is an informal planning meeting each Saturday before the Council Meeting which he can attend.

Cllr Hollick said that residents are of the opinion that the Parish Council has not done enough about Klondyke. He said the Council has written to Hinckley & Bosworth, he has personally spoken to Mr. . He informed him that there was a load of hard core going in. The Enforcement Officer should have followed this up. The Council has done everything it can to represent the residents' views.

The meeting reconvened following public participation at 8.35 p.m.

Cou-232/05-06 Cowpen Spinney – Land owned by Persimmon Ltd.

Cllr Lock reported that the Council has had two meetings with Persimmon. At the first meeting Persimmon promised the work would be done and at the second meeting Persimmon brought in their tree man who we asked for an idea of how much it would cost the Parish Council to keep it maintained. Approximately one month ago a letter was sent to Persimmon's Land Manager asking why the Parish Council had not received a reply. Cllr Lock has also contacted Borough Councillor Collins but as yet has received no feedback.

Cllr Batty confirmed what Cllr Lock had said. He said that in this instance the Parish Council had done everything it possibly could but it has limited jurisdiction. Meetings had been held with the Borough Council and with Persimmon with a view to the work being commenced in October. He and Cllr Lock had written to try and arrange a meeting with the Chairman of Persimmon. As yet no reply has been received.

Cllr Batty has spoken to the Director of Culture and Development today and will hopefully meet with him on Thursday to look at the issues involved.

Cllr Lock said that a letter of complaint had been received from Gill Cross, County Council Highways Officer, regarding brambles at Spinney Close.

It was agreed that Cllrs Lock and Batty and the Clerk will get together and write a letter to Persimmon, a copy of which to be sent to the Health & Safety Executive.

Cou-233/05-06 Bluebell Drive Amenity Area

The Chairman left the room during the discussion of this item.

Cllr Lock said that there is a working party that a number of members are involved in, led by Cllr Yarwood. Cllr Lock had had a telephone call from Greg Thurlow saying that this estimate was based on him being able to have vehicular access. This item is on the agenda tonight for the Council to ratify that Greg Thurlow can carry out the work.

Cllr Batty said that a good thorough breakdown of the work had been provided and would support it going ahead. He asked if a definite date for the completion of the agreement had been provided.

Cllr Yarwood said that the land could be the Parish Council's by Friday. The Parish Council wants Wilsons to pay for the easement. Severn Trent has a lot of equipment under the land and an easement has to be granted to them for access to the land in the future for maintenance, etc.

Cllr Batty proposed that the quotation from Greg Thurlow be accepted and a licence be applied for from Wilsons to enable preparatory work to take place before the weather deteriorates further. This was seconded by Cllr Hollick and agreed.

Cou-234/05-06 Flooding at Jacqueline Road, Field Head

Cllr Batty said that in March /April 2004 there was a planning application for a property at the rear of a property at Jacqueline Road. Residents had been encountering flooding problems. There was then another application for a further bungalow to be built. This Council then put in concerns to the planning officers regarding surface water. This Council then put in concerns to the planning department about water run off. It was felt that insufficient provision was being

made in this application to deal with the additional surface water that would come off that property.

The planners did not address the problem – it was not resolved. There was an increase in flooding problems experienced by a number of properties. A site meeting took place with Borough Councillor Matthew Lay for Markfield and Field Head, himself and planning officers and it was agreed that a voluntary arrangement would be agreed with the developer and resident of this particular property. This agreement to put sumps in place with a pump has not been honoured and the flooding is getting worse.

Cllr Purves said she recalled it came to planning and we raised concerns. If members are in agreement we should write to the planning department expressing our grave concern regarding this and asking what proposals they have to remedy it.

It was agreed to write to Mr. Cash enclosing copies of previous correspondence.

Cou-235/05-06 Borough Councillor's Report

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councillor P. Batty

Cllr Batty spoke regarding Klondyke. He said that the latest situation is that he has had a meeting with the solicitor for Hanson, Keith Bird. Hanson made a point of saying they were very surprised that the local authority had not demanded a public inquiry. He has taken this up with the Borough Council.

As far as the Borough Council's involvement is concerned he has taken up over the last couple of weeks with Peter Cash and the Chief Executive the issue of the compulsory purchase under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Both the chief executive and the Leader of the Council agreed with him that there is a loophole there that should be looked at and Cllr Batty does actually have a meeting on Thursday, with the Leader of the Council and the person who is responsible for travellers and gypsies affairs to formally get together to form a resolution to put before the Borough Council on 6 December for the Council to express a policy to renew its options on compulsory purchase providing we can get the documents prepared. We are actually going out for further advice on this Act. Not just for the travellers' part of the site but for the site as a whole.

Cllr Hagan asked What about the pre establishment that there is allegedly a resident there already. Cllr Batty said that he had taken this up as well.

Cllr Hagan asked if a bin emptying service was being provided. Cllr Batty replied that someone is emptying the bins.

Cllr Batty said that the Parish Council does now seem to be getting some attention from the Borough Council. This Council wrote on 22 September to the Borough Council following a resolution of the Council specifically pointing out the issue with regard to the Compulsory Act 2004 urging the Borough Council to make all powers available under the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to the whole of the area known as The Klondyke.

Cllr Hollick said that following the Quarry Liaison Meeting in September Midland Quarry Products will be strongly objecting to the report

The Green Space Strategy document that was adopted was considered so flawed in respect of Groby was unadopted.

Cou-236/05-06 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Mr. D. Sprason

County Councillor D. Sprason gave an update on the Field Head crossing. He has seen drawings and they will be with the Parish Council soon for comments.

County Councillor Sprason said that TPO's are actually held by the County Council. They are County Council responsibility. Rob Fraser is the contact person.

As from April the LEA ceases to be and is no longer the local authority for providing education. The local authority will be a critical point which will look at educational services and who provides them. It will monitor the schools; look at their resources, targets, etc.

Back in 1998 grant maintained schools were discussed - it is exactly the same now except that the local authority will have more power than what was proposed in 1998.

The Government Funding Proposal for next year. The County Council as it stands will have 0.1% increase from Central Government from next year. This has just not kept up with inflation. The Council will be £10m short for next year and cuts will have to be made – transport, community education, charges. If this is the case the Council will go out to consultation and ask the people of Leicestershire what they want. £10m means a 5% Council Tax increase.

The Remploy Disability Award has been won by the County Council this year.

One other award put forward - Care on Line – a Social Services initiative. This goes out to areas that are not normally reached – rural areas. It is recognised by Central Government as good practice. It has also been short listed for a European award as an e gov solution. It is nice to see the County Council is working hard in all areas despite shortage of funding.

Cou/237/05-06 Payment of Accounts

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i> £	<i>Date Paid</i>	<i>Cheque No.</i>
Cash	Petty Cash	100.00	24.10.05	105308
Various	October salaries	3294.96	24.10.05	105309/10/11&12
Inland Revenue	Tax & National Ins	1223.54	31.10.05	105313
Granart	Inscription	39.20		
M Cartwright	Parish Plan funding / printing	1,400.00		
TBD Morris Environmental Ltd	Removal of asbestos sheeting - Allotment car park	293.75		
HBBC	Office & Cemetery Rates	229.00		
WHA Ltd	Agricultural Vehicle policy	428.82		
Anstey Building Supplies	Various	54.29		
D P Hulett	Work carried out at Ratby Road Allotment	350.00		
MAP Waste	Waste collection	38.78		

Harvey Ingram	Professional charges re Druck Lease	1,175.00
Konica Minolta	Photocopies	15.15
Office Angels	Revised invoice for Temp Minute Clerk	86.36
Target	Treatment for wasps - Allotments Ratby Road	75.20
Public Works Loans Accounts	Loan payment and interest	2030.47
Total		£10,834.52

Cllr Batty said he was concerned about the Harvey Ingram request for an interim payment. Harvey Ingram was initially paid £600.00. The Parish Council then agreed to the increase in fees to £1200.00. Now the fees amount to £2500.00.

Cllr Hollick said he believed there had been a ceiling put on the amount to be paid to Harvey Ingram.

Cllr Lock said he had received a telephone call from Harvey Ingram saying that the bill had gone up to £2500.00 and could they put in an interim account.

Cllr Batty proposed that an explanation be sought from Harvey Ingram for the increase of fees and payment be withheld pending a breakdown of costs. This was seconded by Cllr Hollick.

A vote was taken:

7 voted in favour
3 voted against

The motion was carried.

Cllr Hodges arrived at this point.

Cou/238/05-06 Planning Applications

Members considered and commented on planning applications as set out below:

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
05//00366/COU	Allotment Gardens, Newtown Linford Lane	Change of use of land to permanent residential	Cllr Batty updated the members on the progress he was making at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in relation to investigating the possibility of compulsory purchase of the Klondike
04/00770/FUL 05/00006/FUL 05/00303/FUL 05/00716/FUL	31 & 33 Farr Wood Close	Report from HBBC	Following a request for clarification regarding the discrepancy and inconsistency between the outcomes of these two applications a response had been

			received which was, in the view of the Council, inaccurate. It was agreed a letter be sent.
		Green Space Strategy	See comments below
05/01138/FUL	6 Buttercup Close	Erection of Rear Conservatory	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding.
2005/0738/04	Bradgate Landfill Site	Revised Planning Permission rec'd	See comments below
05/01119/FUL	22 Lawnwood Road	Erection of Conservatory	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding
05/01153/FUL	234 Markfield Rd, Groby	Extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding

Green Space Strategy

Cllr Purves drew to member's attention that Cllr Batty had advised Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council of the inaccuracy of this report and that he and other members of that Council had got a deferment on the report as Groby was not the only village where the details were incomplete.

Cllr Purves highlighted five points which she felt were of particular relevance.

Reference 4-7 "the acknowledgement of a number of different providers of green space including P.C., L.C.C., H&BBC, private landowners, wildlife trusts."

Reference 4-8 H&BBC makes a commitment to support PC's with the management and improvements of their green space.

Reference 4-10 It is advised that PC's put in place plans for the protection, management and improvement of their green space.

Reference 4-11 The strategy assessment of PC's green space provides recommendations to PC's on green space in their areas. They hope these will be discussed and priorities developed based on consultation with local people. PC's are encouraged to develop their own action plans based on the strategy's recommendations and their own needs.

Reference 4-12 Cllr Purves felt this point was particularly important as it related to Section 106 funding. The strategy's assessment of provision in the Parishes will be used by H&BBC to assess applications for grant funding in the future. The section 106 funding will also take into consideration the strategies recommendations and PC's own green space action plan if they choose to develop one.

Resolved that an update on green space in Groby be collated including water ways, pools, woods, amenity areas etc Members to let the Clerk or Cllr Purves have details.

Ratby Road Shop Scheme

Cllr Batty has negotiated a deferment on this project as the request by this Council for amendments to the project had not been taken into account. New ideas to be put forward for Cllr Batty to take to H&BBC for them to draw up a new project plan. Following discussion with Cllr Batty regarding disabled access Cllr Purves recommended that an article go in the Spotlight seeking the views of those residents who may be infirm or have a disability asking for their suggestions on making access to these shops easier.

It was agreed an article be submitted to the Spotlight

Bradgate Landfill Site

Cllr Purves gave a brief report on planning permission approved by Leicestershire County Council. Some of the main points highlighted were:

Tipping will cease no later than 31st December 2007

Site area to be capped and restored no later than 31st December 2008

Hours of operation 07-30hrs-17-30hrs Monday to Friday

07-30 hrs-13-00hrs Saturdays

08-00hrs-14-00 Sundays & Bank & Public holidays

“The integrity of the ground water tower shall be monitored to ensure that groundwater levels can be maintained to standards previously agreed with the Waste Planning Authority....In the event of the groundwater tower failing a contingency plan that has previously been approved by the Waste Planning Authority shall be implemented.”

Cou/239/05-06 Consultation

It was agreed to leave this item for the Clerk to bring to the first Parish Council meeting in January.

Cou/240/05-06 Setting 2006/7 Budget

Members to submit their budget requests for consideration to the Clerk by 30 November.

Cou/241/05-06 Cemetery Working Party Report

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

Cou/242/05-06 Marina Park Consultants

Cllr Lock proposed that the Council employ Ian Stamp Associates to carry out the work at Marina Park. This was seconded by Cllr Batty and agreed.

Cllr lock said that a lot of time had been wasted by not employing the right landscape architect at Marina Park. To avoid this happening again he has spoken to Tony Lockley who is in charge of FLAG and discussed the way that the Council could benefit from FLAG funding. One of the areas identified was the Mineral Railway Line. Cllr Lock said he would like the Council's agreement to instruct Ian Stamp to do the design for the Mineral Railway Line as well as Marina Park. He has spoken to FLAG who have high regard for this gentleman. FLAG are very keen on getting some work done in this financial year,

Cllr Hollick said that he had spoken to Tony Lockley and he along with others are keen to help Groby with a FLAG grant.

It was agreed to ask Ian Stamp to look at and give quotations for i) Beaconsfield ii) Mineral Railway, that may benefit from FLAG grant.

Cou/243/05-06 Druck

All members had been circulated with an e mail from Druck. Cllr Lock reported that Druck want an agreement in principle to them sealing the contamination.

The latest idea that Bob has come up with is to tarmac the surface. There will be no danger of contamination coming from the car park area.

Cllr Batty said that the Council should proceed with extreme caution and take advice from the environment agency.

It was agreed to inform Druck that the Parish Council agrees in principle to the sealing of the contamination issue providing no environmental regulations are broken regarding gas, etc.

It was agreed that the remaining items on the agenda including the correspondence list would be deferred to the meeting of 21st November. It was agreed that no other additional items would be added to the next agenda.

Closed Session

Cou/244/05/06 Minute 217/05-06 – Closed Session

Cllr Batty said that he had expressed concern that things are progressing the right way for the council but he is still under the impression that we were to have a further meeting with Ron Simpson at which councillors would be given the opportunity of considering whether things were progressing in the right way or not.

The Clerk updated councillors. She said that she had e mailed all councillors on 4 November to say that she had met with Ron Simpson. She had met Ron Simpson to discuss a number of issues – not just the grounds maintenance staff. It was an informal meeting where other issues such as EGMs, Standard Boards were discussed. As part of that discussion Ron Simpson brought her up to date and said that he met with the GNB representative and the two ground staff and he had had some lengthy discussions with them. He then said he was keen to have another meeting with the GMB representative, herself to bring the situation up to date. She agreed and as he suggested that the grounds staff ought to be there if they chose or could be represented by their rep. Ron Simpson will then come back to the Council and attend if that is what is wanted or he will pass his advice on through the Clerk. The matter will be progressed from there.

Minute 222/05-06

Thomas Heard Trust should read Thomas Herbert Smith Trust.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.