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**Groby Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on**  
**Monday, 17 October 2005 at the Parish Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby**

**Cou/203/05-06 Present**

Members: Cllr Hagan (Chairman), Cllrs. Dickson, Yarwood, Jones, Beck, Marvin, Kennard, Hodges, Coates, Emerson, York, Batty, Hollick  
Acting Clerk – Cllr Lock  
County Councillor Mr. D. Sprason arrived at 7.35 p.m.  
Several members of the public were in attendance

**Cou/204/05-06 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Cartwright and Purves

**Cou/205/05-06 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Dickson – All items relating to Groby Parish Residents Group  
Cllr Beck – Allotments and Druck, correspondence items 16160 and 16175  
Cllr Hollick – Village Hall and Allotments, correspondence item 16175  
Cllr Kennard – Parish Plan  
Cllr Hodges – Public Open Space, Sycamore Drive, correspondence item 16175  
Cllr Coates - any matters in correspondence that she is not aware of  
Cllr Emerson – Allotments  
Cllr York – Allotments  
Cllr Batty – Groby Parish Residents Group, Car Park Fencing, Personal interest in items relating to the Borough Council  
Cllr Yarwood – correspondence item 16160

**Cou/206A/05-06 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2005**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:**

**Minute Cou/151/05-06 – add at item regarding Link Rise Dog Bin – A Councillor expressed a feeling of some disgust that the residents were not consulted.**

**Minute Cou/152/05-06 – delete the dispersion order would end September 30 – add the dispersion order would end September 10**

**Minute Cou/164/05-06 – delete - the idea of curves – add the idea occurred**

**Minute Cou/169/05-06 - add Councillors should raise issue with Borough Councillor Collins**

**Minute Cou/175/05-06 - add before second paragraph – Emergency Decisions**

## **Cou/207A/05-06 Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2005**

### **Cou/090/05-06 – Speed Limit on A50**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock confirmed that a letter had been sent to the County Council Highways Department regarding speeding on the A50. An acknowledgement had been received stating that the County Council will communicate with the Spotlight.

### **Cou/133/05-06 – Oakmeadow Way**

Cllr Batty asked whether the Council is aware if the resident has taken any action with regard to Cllr Marvin's comments. Acting Clerk Cllr Lock said this matter would be discussed under matters arising in the Minutes of 19 September 2005.

### **Cou/134/05-06 – Bluebell Drive Amenity Area**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock confirmed that Cllr Yarwood has had copies of all correspondence received regarding the above. No further comment has been received back from the Council's solicitors.

Members confirmed that The Chairman had taken no part in the discussion of this item.

Cllr Yarwood will chase the matter this week with Wilson's

### **Cou/142/05-06 – Plot 50, Rathy Road Allotments**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock referred to correspondence item 16203, which refers to the above item. He reported that the staff had cut the hedge down. They were unable to comply with the Allotment Society's request to remove the hedge because a mini digger would have had to be hired.

Because of the large amount of cuttings it is easier to chip it on site and have the chippings taken away. The Allotment Society is in agreement with this. The cost involved would be £350.00

It was proposed by Cllr Batty and seconded by Cllr Marvin that the Council pay up to £350.00 to for the work to be carried out on site and the chippings taken away.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

There were four abstentions: Cllrs. York, Hollick, Beck and Emerson

**Resolved that: The Council pay up to £350.00 for the work to be carried out on site and the chippings taken away.**

### **Cou/151/05-06 – Public Participation**

Cllr Batty referred to the penultimate paragraph and asked for this matter to be taken up at a later meeting.

Cllr Batty referred to the final paragraph. Originally residents from Field Head had asked for a play area. There had been quite a bit of criticism that there had been no consultation by the Council. Cllr Batty reminded the Council that it does not have a consultation policy for dog bins, litter bins etc.

### **Cou/152/05-06 – Police Report**

Cllr Batty reported that he had regular contact with PC Kelly. It is accepted that there is a problem at present in Groby with underage drinking and criminal damage.

**Cou/157/05-06 – Planning Applications**

**28 Lime Avenue** - It was reported that the planners did take into consideration the observations made by the Council

**Klondyke**

Cllr Batty reported that he and Cllr Kennard are progressing this matter.

**Cou/171/05-06 – Correspondence**

**Item 16087 - Link Rise Dog Bin –**

A letter to The Rt. Hon Stephen Dorrell MP has not yet been sent.

**Item 16089 – Leicestershire County Council**

Cllrs Batty and York are endeavouring to liaise with PC Kelly and the new Inspector. Acting Clerk Cllr Lock said that he had been given the impression that Jill Cross would be pursuing this matter. It was agreed that the Acting Clerk would request an update from Jill Cross.

**Closed Session**

Cllr Kennard gave notice to a desire to raise an issue later in the meeting; all agreed.

**Cou/206B/05-06 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2005**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:**

**Cou/177/05-06** – Cllr Yarwood was not present

**Cou/207B/05-06 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2005**

**Cou/150/05-06** – Any questions to be taken in the Closed Session.

**Cou/206C/05-06 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2005**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:**

**Cou/173/05-06 – Parking Ratby Road Allotments** – add **Quarry** before liaison meeting

**Cou/157/05-06** – add - on **Wallace Drive** – after property

**Cou/207C/05-06 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2005**

**Cou/157/05-06 – Planning Applications**

Cllr Batty updated members on Klondyke.

**Cou/133/05-06 – Oakmeadow Way**

Acting Clerk Councillor Lock reported that a letter had been sent back to the resident confirming the compromise of moving the fence. It was pointed out in the letter that

although the Council had not realised that the resident was legally entitled to buy the land it is still going to pursue its interest.

It was agreed to write and ask the resident to carry out the work within 21 days of the date of the letter.

#### **Cou/206D/05-06 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2005**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:**

**Cou/192/05-06** – delete Groby and Blue – add Groby in Bloom

**Cou/192/05/06** – delete Hagen – add Hagan

**Cou/198/05-06 – Correspondence 16172** - Insert – Object to the short notice before the work was to be done.

#### **Cou/207D/05-06 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2005**

##### **Cou/186/05-06- Accounts**

**Weed killer** - Cllr Batty referred to the current legislation with regard to the use of weed killer in public play areas. He asked if Acting Clerk Cllr Lock had had a chance to look into this yet as there is a potential liability issue here.

**Office Angels** - Cllr Batty asked if there had been a response from Office Angels; Acting Clerk Cllr Lock confirmed there had been a response.

##### **Cou/187/05-06 – Planning**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock reported that the following site meetings had been requested with representatives from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council:

Druck Ltd.  
142 Leicester Road  
26 Castell Drive  
Field Head Hotel

No reply had yet been received.

Cllr Batty asked if there had been a reply from Underwood Homes for a site meeting; Acting Clerk Cllr Lock replied no.

Cllr Batty reported that he had received a call from the Planning Officer yesterday; The Planning Application for 142 Leicester Road is being taken into delegated powers.

##### **Land fronting 24-28 Ratby Road - Creation of disabled access.**

Cllr Batty reported that he had taken up the problem with the steps leading to the shops with Health & Safety officers. The landlords have been contacted but do not appear to be doing anything in plain view.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock asked County Councillor Mr. D. Sprason if footpaths are classed as the responsibility of the County Council. County Councillor Sprason replied that footpaths are not on every occasion the responsibility of the County Council. He suggested that the best person to contact would be the County Highways

Inspector. County Councillor Sprason agreed to contact the Highways Inspector and ask him to investigate the matter. Cllr Marvin emphasised how urgent this matter is and that it must be quickly resolved.

#### **Cou/189/05-06 – Hanging Baskets**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock confirmed that the hanging baskets were inspected the day following the meeting. Cllr Marvin queried why it had taken three weeks after a problem had been identified for the baskets to be checked.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock said that the baskets that are still up were safe on the day they were checked. Cllr Hodges said a decision had been taken at the last meeting to take down the hanging baskets the following day.

**Resolved that the Council stands by the decision taken at the last meeting and the hanging baskets be taken down. Before they are put up again a full risk assessment must be undertaken and in future, to comply with current legislation, the hanging baskets must be inspected once a week and any comments must be recorded in a register. Unanimous.**

#### **Cou/190/05-06 – Flooding in the Marina Drive area**

Cllr Batty reported that Severn Trent have committed a considerable amount of money into flood defences at Marina Drive. The gully has now been cleared and it was found to contain an amount of concrete. Severn Trent will be carrying out further inspections.

Cllr Kennard said that the two areas he had reported at the last meeting to have suffered flooding were in fact drainage problems.

#### **Cou/196/05-06 - Tree Survey**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock confirmed that had met with Nick Fell, Forestry Department and as a result an order has been issued for a survey to be carried out on the additional areas listed.

#### **Cou/197/05-06 – Tree Maintenance Contract**

An order has been placed with the County Council Forestry Department for the Tree Maintenance Contract. The County Council has been:

- provided with a copy of the tree survey report produced for Persimmon
- informed that part of Cowpen Spinney is owned by Persimmon
- asked to liaise with Flag and other grant aid organisations

Letters have been sent to the residents who have recently complained about trees informing them that the Parish Council does now have a tree maintenance contract with the County Council Forestry Department.

#### **Cou/195-05-06 Delegated Powers of the Emergency Decisions Committee**

Cllr Kennard said that members still need copies of the relevant paper.

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock replied that if and when the recruitment committee issue the finalised job description and contract to the new Clerk then he will be in a position to supply the information.

#### **Cou/200/05-06, Cou/201-05-06 and Cou/202/05-06**

To be taken in the Closed Session

**Cou/208/05-06 Payment of Accounts**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Granart	Kerb inscription	39.20
Henton & Chattell	V belts x 2	88.81
Konica Minolta	Photocopies	14.89
Target	Wasp removal - Cemetery	75.20
B T plc	Internet services	105.71
Thrust/Gulf Account cards	Fuel/goods	332.55
Cromwell Clothing Ltd	Parks clothing	100.98
MAP Waste	Waste collection	48.47
Vipans (1960) Ltd	Tyre sealant	19.98
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£825.79</b>

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

*The meeting adjourned for Public Participation at 20.20*

**Cou/209/05-06 Public Participation**

A gentleman referred to the public proclamation he had seen and asked what relationship it had with this evening's agenda.

The Chairman replied that this item was listed under Agenda Item – Correspondence.

Another gentleman referred to the discussion that had taken place regarding the steps at the Ratby Road shops. He asked why can't the Parish Council grounds staff lay the two slabs that are required. Cllr Hollick replied it is private land and not Parish Council land.

Cllr Batty said that if the Parish Council staff did carry out the work there is a health and safety issue to consider. If they carried out the work, without the permission of the landowner and did something wrong or used the wrong materials then liability would fall on the Parish Council and ultimately the taxpayer.

Cllr Batty confirmed that he would get in touch with Mark Jarvis' Health & Safety Officer again tomorrow morning. The newsagent and bank are believed have the same landlord as Mark Jarvis.

A gentleman asked on whose authority was the public proclamation issued? The Chairman replied that he personally took the decision, he issued it and he stands by it.

A resident referred to the speed of traffic on Sacheverel Way and asked if the Parish Council could refer this matter to the Police. The Chairman said he would personally take this matter up with PC Kelly.

*The meeting reconvened following Public Participation at 20.40*

**Cou/210/05-06 Dispersal Order**

Cllr Batty said that when the Dispersal Order was in force all it did was move the problem from one part of the village to another. There has been less of a problem during the summer but now that pupils are back at school the problem has come back with vengeance. There have been cases of underage drinking and criminal damage.

Cllr Marvin said that the Parish Council had told PC Kelly that it wanted the Dispersal Order reinstated. Cllr York said that PC Kelly had said he would push for it but didn't hold out much hope

It was agreed that as the Parish Council feels strongly that this anti-social behaviour problem is not going to go away that this item be pursued with PC Kelly.

**Cou/211 /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	<b>To be updated at Council meeting</b>
05/01030/ADV	Field Head Hotel, Markfield Lane, Markfield	Replacement of existing signage	<b>Serious Objection:-</b> Retrospective application - Creation of beer garden Previous site visit request Officers & Enforcement orders requested Original planning condition required sole use of fire exit not to be used for an access Extractor vent not conducive for listed building
05/00996/FUL	302 Leicester Road, Markfield	Extensions and alterations to dwelling	<b>No objections</b>
05/01017/FUL	Druck Ltd	Co2 tank	<b>Still awaiting site visit</b>
05/00936/FUL	26 Castell Drive	Extensions and alterations to dwelling	Matter discussed by resident being dealt with by Borough Cllr Batty

### **Cou/212/05-06 Sycamore Drive Car Park Fencing**

Acting Clerk Cllr Lock said that it was reported to him last Friday morning by Cllr Hodges that the fencing at the above had been damaged. He took the decision to instruct the staff to keep the car park gates locked. On Monday he asked the staff to move all the fencing and to continue to keep the gates locked pending a decision at tonight's meeting.

Cllr Hodges explained that the fence is to prevent vehicles from accessing the land. Cllr Batty said that a substantial barrier/fence is required. A resident had indicated that he might be able to assist and the Acting Clerk will endeavour to speak to this person.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges that the Parish Council erect low barrier fencing to replace the fence that has been destroyed. The Clerk to liaise with the local resident who had offered assistance. This was seconded by Cllr Beck and agreed unanimously.

### **Cou/213/05-06 County Councillor's Report**

#### **Count Councillor Sprason**

- (i) County Councillor Sprason said that he had been in contact with Faye Harvey. The Dispersal Order has finished but she is trying to help and would like all agencies including the Parish Council get together to discuss the matter as has been done in other parishes.

The Dispersal Order has worked in other areas but whilst it was on other things were put in place like dealing with youths, e.g. putting on youth provision, expanding on current youth provision, putting extra resources into youth services and identifying the problem youths and taking them out.

There is now a CSO that will cover Groby, Ratby and Markfield and will work with the local beat officers.

Faye Harvey would like a meeting as soon as possible with the parish council and local residents.

- (ii) Field Head – Crossing

The drawings have been completed for the Ratby Lane crossing. A safety audit is being undertaken and is currently awaiting feedback from the Police and Arriva. The Parish Council will be updated on the crossing and asked for its comments before any other consultation takes place. County Council Sprason will report further at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in November. A flyer will go out in the Spotlight, which will detail both options.

- (iii) Bradgate Landfill

At the planning meeting last week County Councillor Sprason opposed the above application; he asked that, because the application challenged both the local plan and structure plan, if it is allowed to happen that 4 recommendations are put in.

1. Control water tower – asked that the County Council has a contingency emergency plan as part of the application. This was agreed to.
2. To have Saturday hours the same as Sunday and Bank Holidays. Did not get this through.

3. Asked to have noise levels monitored quarterly and on the A50. Did not get this through.
4. Asked to use 106 agreements to save Bradgate House and Stables. This was agreed to.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Sprason for his report.

County Councillor Sprason left the meeting.

#### **Cou/214/05-06 Correspondence**

Item No	Received From	Summary of Contents	Suggested Action
16149	Cllr Beck	Letter re Standards Board	Cllr Beck's concerns noted by Council No action
16160	Cllr Coates	Apology letter	Council accepted the letter
16175	Cllr Batty	Standards Board findings	The letter was not discussed as the meeting went on to discuss the agenda for an EGM that Cllrs Batty and Hodges wish to bring
16195	LCC	Trafalgar Bicentenary 23/10/05	No one to attend
16198	Local Works	Public Meeting - Sustainable Communities Bill	No one to attend
16201	Cllr Batty	Grounds Maintenance operation	Deferred to closed session but item not reached due to lack of time
16203	Nicole Foxall	Email re Plot 50 Ratby Road	Clerk to reply that Council stands by its previous decision to support the allotment societies request as agreed on 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
16205	Cllr Hodges	Email re damage to Sycamore Drive	Replace the fence with one similar to the one at Glenfield Memorial Garden.

#### **Cou/215/05-06 Borough Councillor's Report**

##### **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councillor Batty**

Cllr Batty reported that he had not yet had the opportunity since the recent election to attend a full meeting of the Borough Council. He had little to report regarding the representation for Groby.

He referred to their being more opportunity for parish and communities to improve their green spaces. It is proposed that a series of workshops will be held to look at issues such as funding children's play areas particularly in poorest quality green spaces and could very well channel toward Field Head.

The Green paper passing through Parliament actually includes provision for parish councils to issue fixed penalty notices for dog offences. This will enable parish councils to deal with fouling by dogs, require dogs to be kept on leads where appropriate and restrict the number of dogs per person. Under the Act there will be provision for the Borough Council to adopt powers to deal with a nuisance parking.

A Community Support Officer has been dedicated to Groby

It has come to light during the recent election campaign that there needs to be better communication and consultation between the Borough Council, Parish Council and residents.

Cllr Jones asked if Cllr Batty had any plans for sporting facilities in Groby for young people, and especially on Castell? Cllr Batty replied that he had been pressing the County Council for some time. There are established facilities that need investment and also there is the Klondike and grants may be available.

The Chairman said that as far as Klondike and the compulsory purchase situation is concerned he took the issue up with Borough Councillor Collins in May/June.

Cllr Hollick said that he and Cllr Kennard and Borough Councillor Collins had a meeting with officers from Hinckley & Bosworth about 18 months/2 years ago with regard to extending the facilities at the College. They had great plans for it but to date, nothing has happened.

In his final comments, Cllr Batty expressed his sadness that even a high regarded and well recognised member of the community, such as the present Chairman, received fewer votes than the BNP Candidate. Cllr Hagan expressed his astonishment at such a comment being made, even by Cllr Batty's standards; Cllr Batty stated he had no problems or issues with the BNP. The Chairman, as named by Cllr Batty, found this of some intrigue, given recent correspondences and conversations.

**Cou/216 /05-06 Date of next meeting**

Monday, 7 November 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

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