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Groby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on
Monday, 16th January 2006 at the Parish Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/290/05-06 Present

Members: Cllr Lock (Acting Chairman) Cllrs Dickson, Beck, Purves, Cartwright, Hodges, Coates, York, Emmerson, Batty, Hollick, Kennard, Yarwood.
The Clerk.

Cou/291/05-06 Apologies for absence

Cllr Marvin, Cllr Jones & Cllr John Hagan (for being late)

Cllr Lock, Acting Chairman in Cllr Hagan's absence read out a request from Cllr Hagan to re order the agenda and take items 3 & 4 (Minutes and Matters Arising) later in the meeting.

Cllr Lock proposed the suspension of standing orders. A Vote was taken: For 6. Against 6. The Chairman used his casting vote, voting in favour of the proposition.

Item 3 & 4 were deferred to later in the meeting. It was agreed that members would review the situation at 8pm

Cou/292/05-06 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group, Bluebell Drive Amenity Area, Parish Plan, correspondence.

Cllr Beck – None

Cllr Cartwright – Personal interest: Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Plan,

Cllr Kennard – None

Cllr York – Allotments, parking on Ratby rd, O2 mobile phone mast and anything re land at Victoria cottages.

Cllr Emmerson – Allotments.

Cllr Hollick – Allotments & village hall.

Cllr Batty – Groby Parish Residents, Any matters relating to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, item 11 and Marina Park.

Cllr Lock – None.

Cllr Coates – None.

Cllr Purves – None

Cllr Jones – None

Cllr Hodges – Public open spaces and item 11 on the agenda.

Cllr Yarwood - None

The meeting adjourned for Public Participation at 7.09pm

Cou/293/05-06 Public Participation

There were no questions from the members of the public who were present.

The meeting reconvened following public participation at 7.10pm

Cou/294/05-06 Borough Councillor Report: Cllr Batty reported on the following:

i) Housing: The Borough will be publishing its Housing Needs Survey which contains plans to improve affordable housing. **Cllr Batty agreed that a copy of the draft document would be sent to the office.**

ii) Budget: it was reported it was hoped that the Council Tax would be keep down at 3.5%.

iii) The Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership: It was noted that the partnership which

includes all seven of the Districts and Borough Councils and the County Council, is currently reviewing the Leicestershire Waste Management Strategy. The draft strategy will set the priorities, policies and targets for the next twenty years for increasing recycling levels and the complete waste collection process. The draft strategy is currently out for consultation. Cllr Batty and other members expressed concerns that such an important plan which will affect the refuse and recycling collection service of every resident across Leicestershire will only be discussed in detail with 280 Leicestershire residents selected at random. **Action: Clerk to draft and submit article for Spotlight.**

Members expressed concern at the refuse collection service in Groby. Complaints included bins not being put away, households not receiving notices re collections and a lack from continuity of enforcement. **It was agreed that copies of the collection details for the Parish should be held in the office. Action: Cllr Batty to pursue Cllr Yarwood's complaint regarding HBBC's failure to collect any rubbish whatsoever from his property.**

Cou/295/05-06 Payment of Accounts Appendix C

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Various	December salaries	4483.51
Inland Revenue	Tax & National Ins	1,794.62
Harvey Ingram	Druck Lease fees	1,175.00
Cash	Petty cash	100.00
HBBC	Office & Cemetery rates	229.00
John Smith & Son	Commemorative tree	21.94
MCE	Electrical services for Xmas tree lights	193.88
Konica Minolta	Photocopies	16.64
Green Wave Technology Ltd	Website hosting fee	235.00
D Brown	Cleaning x 3	30.00
ESPO	Stationery	142.42
Thrust / Gulf Account cards	Fuel / Goods	71.50
Granart	Inscriptions, kerbs & vaults	322.00
MAP Waste	Waste collection	38.78
Ratby Co-operative Band	Carols around the tree	90.00
Harvey Ingram	Fees for Marina Park registration	382.50
Severn Trent Water	Water charges	126.73
B T plc	Internet services	105.71
Hacker Young	Fees for Audit of Annual Return	763.75
Vipans (1960) Ltd	Various hardware	89.83
C M Purves	Reimbursement of Groby in Bloom	
Total		£10,450.11

It was noted that Cllr Purves had requested in writing prior to the meeting additional details on specific items on the payments list. The Clerk read out the following:

John Smith & Son: The only cost to the Council is our time, petrol etc. i) The Operatives collected the tree, ii) One operative collected the tree. iii) We order and collect the tree as part of our service to the client. The size of the tree in a standard car can be an issue. The operatives have collected a tree on behalf of residents on 4 occasions in the last year. Cllr Purves expressed concern regarding the cost to rate payers and it was agreed this be considered by the cemetery working group.

MCE: The bill is for 5 hours work. This is for putting up the lights, doing the checks etc and taking them down on two separate days. This is not a meter reading. The Stamford pays for the electricity. No meter reading is therefore taken for our purposes. The invoice is line with last years bill. This year we paid an additional £7.50 for plastic wrap ties. The Bill in 2005 was £185.06 incl VAT. Cllrs Batty and

Cartwright expressed concern at the level of the bill and questioned the location of the tree. It was reported that some residents had voiced concern about the tree being sited on licensed premises.

Action: to bring back matter for discussion in October 2006.

Vipans: Hardware items: 1 x telescopic tree looper - £59. 1kg x nails - £2, 1 x bolt at 70p, 1 x saw blade - £14.75. Plus VAT on all items. Cllr Purves asked and it was confirmed by the Clerk that this item is now on the inventory.

It was noted that Cllr Batty wishes to raise a query on Thrust/Gulf payment in closed session.

The Clerk reported that the office staff had taken onboard Members concerns which were raised at the Special Budget meeting regarding finding potential savings. It was noted that savings were already being identified in areas such as stationary, photocopying etc.

The payment of accounts was unanimously agreed.

Cou/296/05-06: Police Report: Local Beat Officer PC Kelly gave the crime figures for the Parish for the period from 01/12/05 to 31/12/05.

Crime	Number – Groby
Burglary – Dwelling	0
Burglary – Other	1
Robbery	0
Vehicle – Taking	1
Vehicle – Taking From	2
Vehicle – Damage	0
Non-Domestic Assaults	2 (2 suspects for both offences)
Total Crimes	20
Anti Social Behaviour hotspot	None
Repeat victims	None

Cllr Batty reported that there had been a 501 incident at the Klondyke that evening. Cllr Batty told PC Ned Kelly that low loaders, earth moving equipment and a digger had been seen on site. PC Ned Kelly agreed to investigate the matter after the meeting.

PC Kelly told members that the Community Support Officer, Lee Flavill had been unable to attend the meeting as he had to complete his duties at the New Parks Policing Unit before joining Groby fulltime. PC Kelly told members that he would be asking Lee Flavill to attend Council meetings in his absence. **It was agreed that Lee Flavill would attend a Council meeting at the next available opportunity.**

Cllr Batty told PC Kelly that the Crime Prevention Officer had written a letter to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, copied to Groby Parish Council, indicating that he had no objection to the proposed plans for a wall at the Ratby road Shops. This went against PC Kelly's advice. **PC Kelly agreed to investigate the matter and talk to the Crime Prevention Officer .Cllr Batty agreed to forward a copy of the letter to PC Kelly.**

Cou/297/05-06 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 reported that no date and no inspector for the appeal had yet been set. Chris Merriman a HBBC had however been approached with a view to a meeting with the planning applicants.

Other Planning Correspondence:

Item 11: Marina Park was taken under the Planning item.

Cllr Purves thanked all those Councillors who attending the planning Ctte meeting with Ian Stemp. Notes of the meeting were available in the office for members to see. Members expressed their support for the scheme. The Clerk reported that the application for funding for the scheme from FLAG would be submitted on Friday 20th January. **It was agreed that the location of the proposed benches at the site would have to be discussed with residents in the immediate vicinity.**

The Clerk reported that the FLAG application required a letter of support from the local County Councillor, Cllr Fraser. It was noted that the Clerk had been unable to contact Cllr Fraser. **Cllr Sprason agreed to pursue the matter on the Council's behalf.**

Ratby Road Scheme: It was noted that the office had received four responses from residents as a result of the Spotlight article. The proposals were generally welcomed. Comments received included requests for the path to be widened all the way across, that the slope was too steep, that any slope should be graduated and a zig zag was suggested by members, that the steps with a railing should be retained and that the area in front of the shops should be wide enough to turn an electric carriage or wheel chair to allow for exit and pedestrians to pass. Cllr Purves had drawn up a sketch of ideas and it was agreed that Cllr Batty would feedback the comments to HBBC.

O2 Mobile Phone Mast: It was noted that the article submitted on behalf on the Council on this subject had made the front page of the Spotlight. Cllr Batty reported that a residents group had been set up to fight the proposals. It was noted that HBBC had established that as the land belonged to the Borough Council. They are not prepared to support the application and O2 have been notified to this effect. It was noted that Cllr Batty had also written to O2 to set out his opposition. Hinckley and Bosworth's position at this time is that the officers would not recommend the application to the ctte. The application from O2 is now on hold whilst they review the situation. It was noted however that as O2 made reference to having a 'statutory obligation' it was likely that an application would have to be fought. It was noted that the public meeting on the subject had been postponed pending further information.

Cou/298/05-06 County Councillor Report: Field Head: Cllr Sprason reported work was taking place on site to comply with the planning permissions and that fresh applications for works should be submitted shortly. **Budget:** It was reported the proposed Council Tax rise for the County was expected to be 4.5%. This would mean that £10.3 million of savings would need to be found. These proposals would be going out to consultation. Any further cuts would impact on frontline services. It was noted that the County had once again received the lowest financial settlement from Government in the country. **Concessionary Travel:** Cllr Sprason told members of potential changes to the concessionary fares scheme. Government proposals are for free travel for pensioners before 9.30am. LCC have costed the existing scheme which operates in the County, which is for half price fares before 9.30am. This has been costed at £2.8million. The County currently commits £800,000 to the scheme. Any decision taken would have to form part of the budget process. Cllr Batty raised the point that concessionary charges were only within the Borough and if the Borough did not have reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring areas bus users leaving Groby would have to pay full fare once they reach the A50.

Cou/299/05-06 Minutes: At 8pm the Council revisited the format of the agenda. As the Chairman had not yet arrived at the meeting it was agreed that the discussion of the minutes and matters arising could not be deferred any longer. Members agreed to take Minutes and Matters Arising as the next items of business.

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 19th December 2005, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment:

Minute Cou/281/05-06 Planning: LCC Consultation p.146 para 6, line 3, Dickson misspelt as Dickinson.

Minute Cou/ 278/05-06 Matters Arising: p.144 para 2 1st line delete 'is' and replace with 'if'.

Cou/300/05-06 Matters Arising

Minute Cou/ 278/05-06 Matters Arising: Police report: p143, para 1, line 2, Cllr Kennard asked what the three digit number was that was going to be provided for residents to ring and report incidents of antisocial behaviour. Cllr Cartwright reported

that this number had not yet been published.

Minute Cou/ 278/05-06 Matters Arising: Police report: p144, para 2: Cllr Batty asked when Jane Green the HBBC Neighbourhood warden would be attending the Parish Council meeting. The Clerk reported that Jane Green was unable to attend all the Parish Council meetings in her patch due to limited work hours. However Jane would be attending the Joint Area Group meetings with the Police. The Clerk reported that Jane has visited the office on a number of occasions and had been very helpful in resolving casework issues. It was noted that the office has the contact details for the neighbourhood wardens.

Minute Cou/281/05-06 Planning Applications: Jacqueline Rd, p145: It was noted that no response had yet been received from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

Minute Cou/281/05-06 Planning Applications: Green Space Parish Forum, p146, para 9: Cllr Batty pointed out that this was not the same as the Borough Council's 'Parish Forum'. It was noted that the meeting of the 'Parish Forum' had been rearranged'.

Minute Cou/281/05-06 Planning Applications: Persimmon, p146, para 12: Cllr Batty asked if an application for works had been submitted to HBBC. It was noted that no such application had yet been received.

Minute Cou/282/05-06 – Minutes, p.146 para 13 Cllr Batty indicated that he wished to raise a query in closed session about the meeting with Ron Simpson on 6th December and subsequent actions.

Minute Cou/284/05-06 Correspondence, p147 It was noted that no letter had yet been received from Groby Juniors football club.

Cou/301/05-06. Cemetery: i) Headstone: The Clerk reported that the undertakers had resubmitted the application for a headstone with a trench in it to intern ashes. Photographs of the design were circulated to all members.

Cllr Hodges proposed and Cllr Hollick seconded the proposition to accept the design as set out. A vote was taken. For 8. Against 4. The motion was carried. **Action: Clerk to inform undertaker.**

ii) To formalise closure of cemetery to non Groby Parish residents: The Council complying with Standing Orders formalised the decision to close the cemetery to non Groby parish residents. It was agreed unanimously. **Action: to tell all undertakers in the area of the Council's decision to close the cemetery to non Groby Parish residents and to inform them of the policy review.**

iii) Request for burial plot reservation: It was agreed to take this item in closed session.

Cou/302/05-06 Groby in Bloom: i) Village sign Cllr Purves reported to members that the Group Cttee was keen to investigate erecting a village sign at the entrance to the village on the roundabout at the junction with Sacheverell Way and the Leicester Road. It was noted that Cllr Purves and the Clerk had arranged a site visit with David Wilkinson LCC to discuss the matter. Cllr Coates showed members the pictures which would be used for the design. 4 pictures, one of the old hall, one of the quarry and one of each of the queens. The Clerk reported that there was enough money in the notice board budget to fund a village sign. Cllr Hodges proposed that the Group Cttee be allowed to pursue the matter. Members agreed. **Action: Clerk to seek quotations for the work.**

ii) Ratby Rd Bed: Cllr Purves reported that the Group Cttee wished to design the large bed on Ratby Rd with permanent planting. It was noted that whilst the initial cost for the bedding plants may be higher than usual in the long term it would be a cost saving. Cllr Purves told members that as part of Groby in Bloom the schools

families would be encouraged to enter a competition to design the small bed at the same site. Cllr Hodges proposed that the Council endorse the Group Cttee's recommendations. **Agreed.**

Cou/303/05-06 Correspondence:

16309	Ian Stemp	RE: Marina Park	Noted
16310	Harvey Ingram	RE Lease Druck	Clerk to chase Druck.
16312	Andersons	RE: Tenancy concern	Noted.
16313	Stepping Stones	RE: Workshop	Noted.
16314	LCC	RE: Parish Plan feedback.	Noted. Agenda item 20.2.06. Papers to be circulated.
16316	Hacker Young	RE: Audit of Accounts	Noted.
16318	HBBC	RE: Parish Forum date	Noted.
16319	Resident	RE: Litter	Copied to Jane Green, Neighbourhood Warden.

It was noted that HBBC had promised to circulate to all members a copy of the cleaning schedule for their parish. The Clerk reported that a schedule had been received and would be on the correspondence list for the meeting on the 6th February 2006.

16317 HBBC RE: Community involvement consultation Clerk to investigate if library has a copy.

16293 RE: Tipping on the Old Mineral Railway line: Cllr Batty reported that Environmental Health at HBBC has powers of enforcement on private land where there is free public access. It was noted that an enforcement officer had visited the land owner. It was noted that the rubbish which did not solely belong to the owner was to be gradually removed/burned. **Action: Clerk to write to the complaint.**

Members expressed concern at the levels of litter and dog mess in the village. It was noted that there was an increase in the number of complaint from residents. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded several complaints to Jane Green, Neighbourhood Warden, who was dealing with the issues. **Agreed: to discuss litter/dog mess at the next meeting of the Council.**

16320 RE: Tree at Highfield recreational area: It was noted that as the tree survey by LCC had not been completed as because the work was not urgent or dangerous that any works to the trees should be deferred until the completion of the LCC report. **Action: Clerk to write to resident.**

Enclosure E – Noted and agreed.

Cllr Hagan arrived at approx 8.30pm. Cllr Hagan sat in the gallery and did not take part in the meeting until Council went into closed session. Cllr Hagan declined the offer of the Chair. Cllr Lock continued as Chairman.

The Council moved into closed session at approx 9.25pm
Councillor Purves left the meeting at 9.27pm.

It was agreed that no additional item would be added to the agenda until the deferred items had been disposed.

The meeting closed at approx 10.12pm

Signed Date
Chairman

Closed Session.

Resolved that the minutes of the closed session of the meeting held on 5th December 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- p.148, para 2**, delete 'Certain members' and replace with 'A number of members'
- p.148 line 6**, delete December and insert 'November'.
- p.148, para 5** after 'Cllr Batty proposed' and insert 'and Cllr Dickson seconded'
- p.148 para 6, line 2**, delete the line 'This was prior to a formal vote being taken.'

Minutes of the closed session on 19th December 2005 were agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

Item 18 Staffing Committee: insert 'Cllr Batty read out a document entitled 'misplaced allegations'. There followed a heated and frank exchange of views. The majority of members did not agree with the document in it's entirety.'

All other points under Staffing Ctte were deferred to the discussion under item 21.

Matters Arising: Item 13: Cemetery: It was noted that Standing Orders had been complied with, and the necessary notice of motions had been placed in a file in the foyer of the office for all members to view.

Minute Clerk Cllr Lock reported that he had contacted the Chair of Anstey Parish Council to ask if he might speak to the minute clerk. He agreed. Cllr Lock made contact with the minute clerk and she declined the offer to meet with the Parish Council.

The Clerk asked members if they wished that the post of minute clerk be re-advertised. Cllr Kennard expressed concern at re-advertising the post before discussing item 20: the future format of the Council's minutes. Cllr Cartwright proposed that the Council re-advertise the post. The motion was seconded by Cllr Dickson. A vote was taken For 11. Against 1. 1 Abstention: Cllr Kennard .

It was suggested that in future the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk sit together to avoid the confrontational seating arrangement.

Item 12 Cemetery: i) Request or reservation of burial plot: Cllr Hagan declared an interest as a plot holder. Cllr Lock read out minute Cou/201/05-06 in which members had previously discussed a request burial in similar circumstances ie out of numerical order. It was noted that no formal vote was taken.

Cllr Hodges proposed that the Council should stick to its existing policy, reserving plots in strict numerical order. There followed a lengthy discussion.

Cllr Hodges proposed the following amendment motion,

' that the request be acceded to on this occasion but thereafter plots should be reserved in strict numerical order and sequence'.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Cartwright. A vote was taken on the amendment. For 10. Against 2. Abstention 1. The amendment was carried.

Members then voted on the substantive motion For 10. Against 2. Abstention 1.

ii) Cemetery records: The Clerk reported to Council her concerns. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the matter further, seeking advice from LRAPLC and Allianz Cornhill. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact previous Clerks` to ascertain original procedures.

Item 14 – Mower maintenance: Cllr Cartwright proposed that Council accept Wildwood's quotation for the work plus parts. Cllr Hodges seconded the motion. It was agreed unanimously.

Item 15 – Sycamore Drive Fence: The Clerk reported that the revised quotes had been received. Cllr Hollick proposed that the Council accept George Walker's quotation. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hodges. Members agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the posts would not be concreted in.

Signed Date
Chairman