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Groby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on
Monday, 9th January 2006 at the Parish Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/285/05-06 Present

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

Cou/286/05-06 Apologies for absence

Cllr Jones, Emmerson. Cllr Hollick for being late.

Cou/287/05-06 Declarations of Interest

All members expressed an 'interest' in all items for discussion..

Cou/288/05-06 Budget 2006/2007

Cllr Lock introduced the budget. It was noted that amongst the papers circulated to members before Christmas, the landscape document was a statement of trading up to the end of November 2005.

Cllr Lock informed members that during the year (2005) Council had agreed to spend £47k from reserves. It was anticipated at this stage the £50k would remain in reserves. Cllr Lock reassured members that there had been no overspend. It was noted that the Council had received £20k more in income than had been expected. Cllr Lock informed members that of out of a budgeted spend of £237k the actual spend to date is £93,359k. It was noted that part of the under spend to date was made up from a £7k under spend on administration and a £18k under spend on Parks.

Capital Projects: It was noted that of the £91k budgeted for capital projects only 12k had been spent to date. This equates to a £69k under spend.

Cllr Cartwright asked how much was forecast to be in reserves at the end of the financial year. Cllr Lock forecast there would be £214k. Cllr Batty clarified that this was a net increase of £116k with all the current spend to date out.

Cllr Purves asked how many of the capital projects still outstanding could be completed before the end of the financial year.

7.23pm Cllr Hollick enters the Council Chamber.

Members considered the list of capital projects and discussed which projects would i) be completed before the end of the financial year, ii) which items should be rolled forward to the next financial year and iii) which items should no longer be progressed as a capital project.

Capital Programme 2005-2006

Progress on 2005/06 Schemes

Scheme	Budget	Spent to Date	Anticipated Spend	Comments
Paths Castell/Marina Park (202)	£20,000	Nil	Nil (Fees for works from another budget heading)	FLAG application submitted 20/01/06. Unlikely to complete project within financial year 05/06. Completion May 2006.
CCTV (203)	£15,000	Nil	Nil	Money rolled into general fun. Project unlikely to be achieved.
Fencing Beaconsfield (204)	£5,000	Nil	Nil	Plans superseded by Council's decision to ask Ian Stemp (Landscape design) to draft design for area.
Additional Notice Boards (205)	£7,500 (revised increase during 2005)	Nil	£7,500	Notice boards ordered before Christmas. Anticipated delivery end March 2005.
Play Equipment – Field Head (207)	£16,000	Nil	Nil	Grant funding required for scheme.
Play Equipment – Marina Park (208)	£14,500	Nil	Nil	Item rolled forward in error. Capital project completed in previous financial year.
Protection of Parish Council Owned Land (209)	£5,000	Nil	£1,000	Anticipated spend £1,000 on height barrier for Quarry Field.
Two seats Quarry Playing Field	£1,000	Nil	Nil	Item rolled forward in error. Capital project completed in previous financial year.

Cllr Hagan commented that it was difficult for members to argue the case for new capital projects when the previous year's capital projects had not yet been disposed of. The Clerk advised members that the Council should seek to complete the capital projects in the 2005/06 budget before considering any new projects.

It was agreed that the following projects should be rolled forward into the new financial year 06/07

Scheme	Budget 06/07	Comments/decision
(202) Marina Park	£70k	Increase from £20k
(203) CCTV	£15K	Rolled forward.
(204) Fencing Beaconsfield	£8k	Designs currently being drawn up by Ian Stemp. Increased from £5k.

(200) Allotment money works	£1,300.	Roadway repairs Ratby Rd Allotments, extend Orchard Close Car park.
(207) Play equipment Field Head	£20k	Increased from £16k
(209) Protection of Parish land	£5k	Rolled forward.
* Upgrade Mineral Railway Line (Phase 1)	£15k	Designs currently being drawn up by Ian Stemp.
*Play Equipment at Quarry Fields	£20k	To seek additional grant funding.
*Improvements to Sacheverell Island	£6k	Includes Village sign, improving flowers beds, new chevrons, work around millennium stone etc.
		Total £160.300

*Members confirmed a number of capital projects which Council had previously made an 'principle' decision on.

Total of Capital projects for 06/07 was agreed at £160,300.

The Clerk advised members that the internal auditor had recommended that the level of reserves to be held by a Council should be approx 50% of the total running costs. It was noted that the current level of reserves was £30k. It was noted that the precept would have to rise to £260k if members agreed to take on all the items on the budget wish list as new capital projects.

It was noted that the running costs/overheads for running the Council was with a standard 3% increase £139,384. The total amount spent by Council if members except the 3% increase in revenue costs on top of the £160,300 for capital projects would be £299,684. This was without considering any new capital projects for 06/07. It was noted that last year's precept was £172,990.

Cllr York suggested that before members decided on any additional capital items, members should look at what level the precept should be. Cllr Lock told members that if Council took the internal auditors advice to retain reserves at £30k, to accept the agreed £160,300 for capital projects and the revenue cost of £139,384 the Council's precept would have to increase from £172,990 to £260,000.

The Clerk advised members again not to add additional items to the capital projects list.

Cllr Yarwood commented that the Council should not look at raising the precept this year as it had been raised in the previous year and the Council had failed to deliver the projects to the community. Cllr Yarwood suggested that the priority should be to looking at the Council's running costs. Cllr Batty echoed these comments suggesting that the Council should be run like a business with proper fiscal control, with better efficiency, reduced over heads and cost effective controls.

Cllr Beck expressed concern at impact on fixed income families when considering a potential increase in the level of council tax.

The Clerk reminded members that the primary function of the Council at this special meeting was to set a budget. The Clerk agreed to look at the running costs of the council and investigate reducing overheads.

Cllr Hodges suggested the Council should set the same precept as last year. He commented that he believed the running costs were out of portion with service delivery. It was agreed that the budget figures gave the Council the mandate to review spending.

Members expressed serious concerns that the Council had agreed a substantial rise in the precept last year but the Council had failed to deliver on the majority of the capital projects which were put forward.

Cllr Batty highlighted the need for youth provision in the community.

Cllr Hodges formally proposed that:

'This Council wishes to retain its present precept of the status quo with no changes at £172.990. And wishes to look seriously at specific cost savings where practical, possible and feasible.'

The motion was seconded by Cllr Hollick. A vote was taken and unanimously agreed.

It was noted that the total needed from reserves would be £112,000.

Cllr Hodges requested that cost savings was an agenda item for Full Council within the next two months. **Action Clerk to bring back item to Council within the next two months.**

Cou/289/05-06 Urgent Items: Planning: It was noted that there was two apologies for the planning ctte meeting. There were two planning applications:

Broomcroft Extension – no objection.
26 Woodland Drive – no objection.

Marina Park/Castell Footpath development: It was noted that the members present had looked at the plans from Ian Stemp and discussed the comments made by Kate Nightingale, the FLAG administrator. Cllr Purves asked members to leave their comments with the plans once they had had the opportunity to look review them.

It was noted that there was no further progress to report on the Klondyke.

It was also noted that the proposals for the O2 mast are still at the informal consultation stage.

Anti Social Behaviour statement – Members discussed the statement drafted by Cllrs Batty and Cartwright. Several amendments were suggested and agreed. See Appendix A.

Cllr Hagan reiterated that members were welcome to attend the special meeting at the community college but as individuals speaking on their own behalf and not as a representative of the Council. It was noted that Cllr Batty would be attending the meeting as a Borough Councillor along with the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Community Safety Team. **Action: Clerk to Email statement to Kim at the college in advance of the meeting.**

Next Meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Full Council would be held on 16th January 2006 with the agenda to include all outstanding items for discussion.

One minute silence: Members held a minute's silence in remembrance of the late Mrs Enid Hill who had recently passed away.

The Council moved into closed session at 9.21pm
The meeting closed at approx 9.28pm

Signed Date
Chairman

Closed Session.

Item 1: Harvey Ingram Outstanding Invoice: It was unanimously agreed that the Council would pay the outstanding amount. **Clerk to write to Harvey Ingram noting their comments of the letter of 19th December 2005 and enclose a cheque for the outstanding amount in full and final settlement.**

The Clerk reported that two outstanding items in relation to the drafting of the lease with Druck. **It was agreed that the Clerk would seek further information/advice on these issues.**

Signed Date
Chairman