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Groby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 19th June 2006 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby.

Cou/053/06-07 Present.

Members: Cllrs Hagan (Chair), Cllr Cartwright, Cllr Lock, Cllr Dickson, Cllr Yarwood, Cllr Beck, Cllr Jones, Cllr Purves, Cllr Coates, Cllr York, Cllr Batty, Cllr Kennard, Acting Clerk: Sara Cowin, Mrs Barbara McNaught: Independent Investigator

It was proposed by Cllr Batty that Sara Cowin would act as the Clerk for the meeting; this was seconded by Cllr Beck.

Cou/054/06-07 Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs Marvin, Hodges, Hollick and Emmerson

Cou/055/06-07 Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Hagan – Planning Item
Cllr Batty – Groby Parish Residents Group, Any matters relating to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council as Borough Cllr, Item of Correspondence 16490, 16506 (part), 16509, Public Open Spaces specifically Stamford Drive
Cllr York – Allotments, Correspondence items 16500, 16509
Cllr Coates – Correspondence item 16509 prejudicial interest
Cllr Kennard – Correspondence item
Cllr Purves – None
Cllr Beck – Allotments, Correspondence item 16509 personal interests
Cllr Jones – None
Cllr Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group, Correspondence
Cllr Lock – Planning
Cllr Cartwright – Personal Interest Groby Parish Plan, Personal Interest Groby Neighbourhood Watch.
Cllr Yarwood – Correspondence item 16509, 16499 prejudicial interests, 16506 and 16507 personal interest

Cllr Batty felt that all members should be declaring an interest in Item 14 on the Agenda.

Cou/056/05-06 Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 5th June 2006, Enclosure A, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment:

Minute Cou/046/06-07 Planning, page 25, 02 Phone Mast, line 5, should read Sacheverell Way.

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record. A vote was taken with a majority decision. Cllrs Cartwright and Yarwood abstained from voting as they were not at the meeting.

Cou/057/06-07 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 5th June 2006

Minute Cou/046/06-07 Planning, page 25, 02 Phone Mast, Cllr Batty asked if members knew of any reason why the meeting with Pentland had not been set up. The Chairman read out an e mail that had been left by the previous Clerk.

Cllr York left the Chamber at 7.15pm returning at 7.19pm

Minute Cou/048/06-07 Working Groups, page 26, Village Hall (rent review), Cllr Purves asked whether there should be time limit placed on this. The Chairman felt that it was a priority that the working group get together asap.

Minute Cou/048/06-07 Working Groups, page 26, Quarry Field Play Equipment, Cllr Batty informed members that he had copied Cllr Purves on an e mail informing her that the Council will be receipt of approximately another £30,000 to spend on Quarry Play Field. Approximately £16,650 from the Chapel Hill Development and £13,000 from the Markfield Road Development.

Cllr Lock had visited Martin Shaw Junior School to try and ascertain some feedback from the pupils to see what kind of equipment that they would like. Unfortunately due to other pressures they were not able to assist at that time but he wished to inform Council that it is in hand and he will have feedback at a future meeting.

Minute Cou/048/06-07 Working Groups, page 26, CCTV, Cllr Cartwright felt that 90 days is unworkable on such a complicated project. It was agreed that this would be extended to 180 days.

The Meeting adjourned for Public Participation at 7.26 pm

Cou/058/06-07 Public Participation

It was asked whether Council would be appointing a new Clerk in the future? The Chairman informed the resident of the current situation with regards to the appointment of a new Clerk.

The issue of the fence at the top of Stanford Drive was raised it has been knocked down again. It was asked whether it could be replaced with anything stronger? Cllr Lock informed Council that at the present moment there is no-one to issue instructions to the operatives. A stronger option is required and this will need to be brought back on an Agenda at a later date.

It would also seem that the gate is not being locked at the correct times and has been noted to be left open overnight once recently. The Chairman will speak to the Operatives as a matter of urgency.

The Meeting reconvened following Public Participation at 7.34 pm.

Cou/059/06-07 Payment of Accounts

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>	<i>Date Paid</i>	<i>Cheque No.</i>
GPC Employee	June salary	689.12	08.06.2006	105504
Burnham Landscapes Ltd	Second payment	43,779.95		
Ian Stemp	Third payment	824.85		
Thrust/Gulf Account Cards	Fuel / Goods	262.92		
P Barratt	Groby in Bloom	729.00		
aplc	Training Course - Clerk	15.00		
Metalium Ltd	Cemetery covers	69.91		
Ian Fraser	Internal Audit	225.00		
Viking Direct	Stationery & Parks consumables	138.40		
C M Purves	Refund for Groby in Bloom	44.24		

Konica Minolta	Quarterly Assignment charge & photocopies	182.24
SFB Tyres	Tyres for Truck	134.00
Approved Fire Appliances Ltd	Service fire extinguishers	72.39
Wildwood	Repair Etesia	42.06
Powergen	Cemetery charges	91.44
Scribe	Annual licence - Cemetery & Accounts	306.00
Total		£47,606.52

Burnham Landscapes – Cllr Batty raised numerous issues in relation to this payment. Cllr Batty had received comment in relation to future drainage problems at the site. A discussion then took place in relation to the contract and payment of such. It was agreed that Cllr Batty would put together an e mail bullet pointing all the issues that he has to Cllr Lock, this will then be forwarded to the Clerk of Works for his comment and seeking clarification/satisfaction.

A vote was taken For: 8, Against: 3 (Cllrs Batty, Jones, Cartwright). A majority decision was reached. Cllr Purves abstained from voting on a specific payment to herself.

Cou/060/06-07 Planning

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
06/00582/TPO	Spinney Close	Felling of 29 Trees & Works to 131 trees	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding
06/00541/FUL	Greys Drive	Alterations to dwelling (Modification of planning permission 06/00280/FUL)	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding
06/00506/FUL	17 Elsalene Drive	Extensions and Alterations to dwelling and erection of detached garage	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding
06/00561/FUL	24 Carmen Grove	Extensions and alterations to dwelling, demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage	No objection Subject to neighbours not being inconvenienced and there being no other planning application outstanding

Branting Hill

The Chair handed the meeting over to the Vice Chair as he declared a prejudicial interest in an item of planning, namely Branting Hill. The Chair left the Chamber at 7.51pm returning at 7.56pm

Cllrs Batty and Lock both declared a prejudicial interest in the Branting Hill item and left the Chamber at 7.51pm returning at 7.56pm

This matter is going to the Regulatory Committee tomorrow; unfortunately due to time restraints it is not possible to make any comments

A letter will be sent to HBBC informing them of the Councils concerns over the time restraints placed on making comments in relation to planning applications.

The Chair has been approached regarding development, which no one knows anything about. He was also approached by the proprietor of a business situated within the area referring to a development which is allegedly taking place on land behind the Groby Co-op. The Chair spoke to a planning officer and asked for specific details so that he could relay parishioner's fears and he was told that effectively there are pre application discussions taking place between the developers, land agent and planning department. Due to it being commercially sensitive no further details were available! Cllr Batty informed members of what had been happening over the last 9 months, with developers. Tenants on the land have been asked to vacate premises by the end of June.

Chapel Hill

A site visit had taken place with Cllrs Purves, Coates and members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee. Meeting was very brief but they tried to re-enforce as many items as possible. They seemed to take on board that any Groby stone, granite or slate should be kept and retained. They said they would go back and look at the dormer window issue. Cllr Purves suggested that either herself or Cllr Coates contacted Cllr Collins and asked him for his support for the Councils concerns. Unfortunately he is away at the moment so this will not be possible. Cllr Batty has already conveyed the Councils concerns on how this application is running.

Ratby Road Allotments

Concerns have been expressed by residents in relation to rumours about the allotments. Cllr Batty reassured members that he has heard nothing about anyone being interested in purchasing the land.

Cou/061/06-07 Klondyke Legal Representation

Cllr Lock informed members that he along with Cllrs Emmerson and Batty had visited Marons last week. He has a good working relationship with the Barrister that is working for HBBC and has worked with him on previous occasions. Cllr Lock has managed to negotiate and reduce his initial fee by 25%. As there is currently no Clerk it was suggested that all correspondence from Solicitors would go via Cllr Batty. It was agreed that all correspondence would be sent via the Clerk at PO Box 1 and cc'd to Cllr Batty.

Cllr Cartwright proposed that Marons are instructed to represent the Council on this matter with a ceiling spend of £10,000; this was seconded by Cllr Dickson.

A vote was taken, a unanimous decision was reached.

Cou/062/06-07 Marina Park Update

Cllr Batty asked what was going to happen with the fence at Sycamore Drive Car Park? Whilst the quote for replacement fencing was agreed it was decided to hold off with the work. Kate Nightingale at Flag raised some objections and wanted certain alterations made around Sycamore Drive. Therefore Council did not want to compromise her paying out the £50,000 by putting the fence up early and opening the car park. That is why this work has not been carried out.

Cou/063/06-07 Allotment Society Grant Application

Council agreed for two representatives from the Allotment Society to address Council.

Cllr Lock informed members that a meeting was held between himself, Cllrs Dickson, Beck, Coates, Mrs Griffiths, Mr Craig (Allotment Society) and Cllr Batty as an observer. Councils concerns were put to the Allotment Society, the next steps forward were then identified, some of which have been taken over by events. The Society has now missed the deadline and has got to re-apply in September. As a matter of legality a rent must be charged, which will be set at £1.00 per year, a tenancy agreement can then be put into place.

Mr Craig, Treasurer of the Allotment Society then addressed the Council. They would like to apologise to the Council for making the application without prior approval of the Parish Council. A grant application will not be accepted without a 10 year tenancy agreement between the Allotment Society and the Parish Council.

Cllr Lock proposed that the Council set up a Working Party to move forward a 10 year tenancy agreement; this was seconded by Cllr Kennard.

Volunteers for the Working Party: Cllrs Lock, Coates and Jones

A vote was taken For: 9, Abstentions 2 (Cllrs York and Beck) A majority decision was reached.

The following proposal was put forward to Council by Cllr Lock; this was seconded by Cllr Kennard

Proposal: The Council's Policy is not to have any asbestos products on Parish Council allotment land.

The following proposal was put forward by Cllr Lock; this was seconded by Cllr Kennard.

Proposal: The Council assists the Allotment Society in the removal of all asbestos products from the allotments.

1. The Allotment Society contact all allotment holders informing them that if they are prepared to act any products on their plot they will be removed at no cost.
2. Any allotment holder who is unable to comply with 1 above the Allotment Society will arrange for assistance.
3. The Council will allocate funds from the maintenance budget but will agree to look favourably at a budget review if these costs stop any other works.
4. Dates to be set by the Allotment Society

A vote was taken For: 9, Abstentions 2 (Cllrs York and Beck) A majority decision was reached

Cou/064/06-07 Revised Budget

Cllr Lock tabled a document pack that he had put together for all Cllrs. He went through each item individually and explained what they all where and what they related to. It was suggested that Cllrs took these away to read and digest. This item will then be discussed at a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lock for all the work that he has put into this.

Cllr Lock informed members that at the meeting he missed, the tree survey was agreed but no formal resolution was passed to employ LCC as the contractors because there was nothing in the budget to cover it. **It was proposed by Cllr Lock that a letter will be written to LCC to formally instruct them to start work on a tree maintenance programme; this was seconded by Cllr Yarwood. A vote was taken and a majority decision reached.**

Cllr Lock informed members that the supplier that had originally offered to take the mower in part exchange has now decided that he is no longer interested in taking it. The Council has been approached by someone who is willing to take the mower; he is aware of all its faults and is prepared to give £200.00. Councillors were all in agreement with this.

Cllr Lock also informed members that a letter had been received from BT to say that if the bill is not paid on time then charges will be added. **It was proposed that BT broadband charges are paid as due before Council approval if necessary to avoid any penalty charges are added. This was seconded by Cllr Beck.**

Cou/065/06-07 Correspondence

16490 – Sponsored Groby Youth Day - Proposed by Cllr Kennard that Council go ahead with this subject to a convenient location being sought. Cllr Kennard assisted by Cllr Jones will take responsibility for seeing this through. The Chairman offered to put in £50.00 from the Chairman's Allowance as sponsorship.

16500 – Noted

16501 – Noted

16502 – LCC Summer Youth Project – Cllr Kennard suggested that Council went ahead with this subject to a suitable location being sought. Cllr Kennard will contact them to ensure that the Public Liability Insurance is in place and to ensure that they clean up after themselves.

16506 – Groby Juniors Football Club – This letter is split into two different items, the first being that they can use the Quarry Playing Field 2006/07 football season. Cllr Kennard felt that Council should agree to this as no complaints have been received. The other item was using Castell Park being used for training sessions, forms will need to be completed and the consultation undertaken. Cllr Kennard will speak to the Administrator along with Cllr Jones to progress the matter further.

16507 – Noted

16508 – Noted

16509 – Taken to closed session

16510 – Roll over to future full Council meeting

16513 – Roll over to future full Council meeting

16517 – Roll over to future full Council meeting

Cou/066/06-07 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 26th June 2006

Members of the public left the meeting at 9.39 pm.

The Council moved into closed session at 9.39 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.09pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Closed Session of 19th June 2006

Resolved that the minutes of the closed session of the meeting held on 5th June 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment:

Woodland Heights, page 19 – Should read Cllr Coates and Cllr Batty left the Chamber.

Staffing Matters, item 3 – should read with effect from close of business, 2.30pm on Friday 9th June 2006.

A vote was taken and a majority decision reached. For: 9, Abstentions: 2 (Cllrs Cartwright and Yarwood as they were not in attendance at this meeting).

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2006.

Payment of Accounts, Guardian Security

Cllr Lock informed members that the cheque for Guardian was still in the office and no correspondence had been received from them.

Staffing Matters:

Cllr Lock tabled a proposal from the Staffing Committee:-

1. S Cowin is appointed as proper officer and RFO with effect from June 19th 2006 until a suitable candidate is appointed.
2. The duties she will be expected to cover are the summoning of meetings and the effective clerking of them.
3. The other areas of responsibility currently part of the clerks job description will be undertaken by her subject to prior agreement between her and the Chairman of the Staffing Committee.
4. Wherever possible documents issued by the Council that can be sent without the proper officer's signature will be sent by the administration assistant, these will only be done after her normal duties are complete.
5. Rate based on the previous Clerk's hourly rate.

A vote was taken and a unanimous decision reached.

Members felt that an advertisement for the position of Clerk should be placed in the Spotlight and Leicester Mercury as a matter of urgency by the Staffing Recruitment Committee. Cllr Lock pointed out that this was not in the remit of the Staffing Committee to this should be done by the Recruitment Committee

Groby in Bloom

Cllr Purves want to know what she was to do in relation to working with the operatives prior to the visit of the judges and she requested Councils views on whether on the day of judging they would allow the press to be present. The Chairman informed members that he was happy for the media to be present and for Cllr Purves to make statements on behalf of the Council. Cllr Purves will put in writing what is needed to be done by the operatives; this can then be incorporated into their work schedule. This was agreeable to all Councillors.

The Chairman moved suspension of standing orders under standing order 82 to extend the meeting for a further 15 minutes after 10pm. Members agreed.

Correspondence Item 16509

Cllrs Yarwood declared a personal interest and left the chamber at 10.01 pm

Cllrs Batty and Coates declared a prejudicial interest and left the chamber at 10.01 pm

Cllrs Dickson, Beck, Jones and York all declared a personal interest in this item

Cllr Lock informed members that Rich & Carr had posted a letter on Thursday which arrived with Harvey Ingram on Friday to say that they were seeking an injunction at 5pm Friday. Harvey Ingram has now written to Rich & Carr who have withdrawn that instruction. This means that we have a resident who is also a Parish Councillor issuing an injunction against the Parish Council. Rich & Carr have now suspended the injunction but they can re-impose it when they wish. Harvey Ingram has suggested that all parties have a site meeting. Cllrs Lock and Hollick will attend the meeting. A vote was taken and a majority decision reached. Cllr York abstained from voting.

The meeting closed at 10.09 pm.