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## Groby Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby.**

**Cou/037/06-07 Present.**

Members: Cllrs Hagan (Chair), Cllr Lock, Cllr Dickson, Cllr Beck, Cllr Jones, Cllr Hollick, Cllr Purves, Cllr Marvin, Cllr Coates, Cllr York, Cllr Batty, Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Hodges, Cllr Kennard, Clerk: Rachel Palma, Minute Clerk: Sara Cowin, Temporary Clerk: Mrs Yvonne Walters

**Cou/038/06-07 Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs Yarwood, Cartwright and Collins  
Cllr Sprason for being late

**Cou/039/06-07 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 re: Groby Youth Day, Public Open Spaces specifically Stamford Drive  
Cllr York – Allotments  
Cllr Coates – None  
Cllr Kennard – None  
Cllr Marvin – Possibly planning application  
Cllr Purves – None  
Cllr Hollick – Village Hall  
Cllr Beck – Allotments  
Cllr Jones – None  
Cllr Dickson – Groby Parish Residents Group  
Cllr Lock – None  
Cllr Hodges – Public Open Spaces specifically Stamford Drive  
Cllr Emmerson – Allotments

**Cou/040/05-06 Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006, Enclosure A, be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment:**

**Minute Cou/005/06-07 Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office, page 12,** Cllr Hagan's comments do not appear, these need to be inserted and further ratified at a later date. That was agreed.

**Minute Cou/029/06-07 Payment of Accounts, page 14, para 2,** Cllr Purves abstained from the voting, this detail needs to be inserted.

**Minute Cou/030/06-07 Planning, page 14, last item in box,** in description this should read Parish Forum, also in the Comments box it should read Cllrs Yarwood, Hagan, Cartwright and Dixon.

**Minute Cou/030/06-07 Planning, page 15, para 6, line 2,** insert "Cllr Batty had been" involved.

**Minute Cou/ 031/06-07 Klondyke Legal Representation, page 15, para 2, line 3,** change sort to sought and correct that members were to cover the entire agenda, not only as had been stated in the Minute Table; that to now read "entire agenda of the Parish Forum Meeting" and delete "travellers." Other Members had also been in attendance at Hinckley.

**Minute Cou/033/06-07 Blue Bell Amenity Area, page 16, para 3, line 5**, delete the word not before accumulated.

**Minute Cou/033/06-07 Blue Bell Amenity Area, page 16, para 3, line 6**, insert the word compound before over base rate.

**Minute Cou/035/06-07 Clerks Update, Marina Park, page 16**, remove the name stated and replace with "Contractor".

**Cou/041/06-07 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006**

**Minute Cou/028/06-07 Public Participation, page 13, Toucan Crossing**, local residents in Field Head have now organised a public meeting which will take place on 7th June. Cllr Batty advised that Cllr Sprason and Cllr Lay, have been invited along with all Parish Councillors if they wished to attend.

**Minute Cou/030/06-07 Planning, page 14, 3 & 5 The Rookery**, after the planning meeting, it was clarified that there will now be £1,850 Section 106 contribution for the bungalow.

*The Meeting adjourned for Public Participation at 7.16 pm*

**Cou/042/06-07 Public Participation.**

A member of the public asked whether there would be a disabled entrance at the Stamford Drive Park? As it is now it would be difficult to get either a pushchair or wheelchair around there. The Clerk informed members that she believed that there would be disabled access to all parts. She also informed members that there was a partial completion meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June with the Contractor and Project Manager, along with Cllrs Kennard and Lock. Any issues could be raised at this meeting. The resident was encouraged by the Chairman to submit a letter against which Councillors could specifically address issues of concern.

*The Meeting reconvened following Public Participation at 7.20 pm.*

**Cou/043/06-07 Borough Councillor Batty's Report**

**Concessionary Fare Scheme:** The controversial and in his opinion, poorly thought out free bus travel scheme that restricts travel to within District and Borough Council areas that was introduced and paid for by our wise Government and that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April (a most appropriate date under the circumstances) 2006 is currently being reviewed with a view to providing equal benefit where ever possible to Leicestershire residents by allowing cross district free travel after 9.30am to all those who qualify. Leicestershire County Council has taken the initiative and has offered to provide a significant amount towards the cost of an improved scheme that is has also offered to administer if Borough and District Council are also prepared to contribute.

The District and Borough Councils have held initial meetings and hope to see agreement reached by 19<sup>th</sup> June 006. Not before time for those residents in areas such as Groby who gained little or no benefit from a fundamentally flawed scheme and felt that they were being discriminated against.

**The Klondike Public Inquiry:** It has now been confirmed that the Public Inquiry into the appeal by travellers against the refusal of their planning application for a permanent caravan site at Groby Pool will be held in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Chamber on 11th & 12th July 2006 commencing at 10.00 am. He has provided the Parish Council with a copy of new Government Guidelines that have recently been introduced that favour Gypsies and Travellers even more and serious concerns have been expressed by the Borough Council and their legal advisors that the situation has now become a whole lot more difficult. The Borough Council has appointed an experienced Barrister to represent its case at the Inquiry and is working very closely with the County Council Highways Authority and the Minerals Planning Authority.

**Housing Strategy:** HBBC is to introduce (i) A new Affordable Housing Policy that will require 40% of new developments to be designated for Affordable Housing, a mix of Shared Ownership and Social Housing. (ii) A new "Planning Gain" contribution is to be introduced when a new planning consent increases the value of land, this will be set at 40% of the increased value of the land and will be channelled towards the cost of providing Social Housing in the general area.

**Licensing Policy:** HBBC Licensing Committee will hold a meeting to review its duties and involvement in the Gambling Act 2005 with a view to issuing a "Draft Statement of Principles".

HBBC have also agreed to regularly provide Parish Councils with copies of the listings of Licensing Applications in its area. However, whilst Parish Councils may themselves choose to represent “interested parties”, under the provisions of the Legislation they will no longer be regarded as consultees.

The Chairman welcomed the requested assurance given to him by Hinckley to continue advising Parish Councils on Licensing Matters, and this was an improvement to that which had been on offer prior to the recent Parish Forum meeting; this gave all Parishioners an on-going opportunity to scrutinise and have their opinions or comments listened to, on all Licensing issues.

**Lone Working and Personal Safety Policy:** HBBC is currently working on introducing a draft policy for the protection of lone workers as part of its ongoing Risk Assessment Strategy, I am providing a copy for information from which the Parish Council may gain some benefit.

**Cou/044/06-07 Payment of Accounts**

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>	<i>Date Paid</i>	<i>Cheque No.</i>
Various	May salaries	4,749.88	22.05.2006	105481/82/83/84 & 85
Inland Revenue	Tax and National Ins	1,921.59	22.05.2006	105498
Wildwood	Repair John Deere	54.59		
Granart	Kerb inscription	39.20		
Ian Stemp	Interim payment	30,295.03		
Playsafety Ltd	Rospa Annual Inspection	317.25		
MAP Waste	Waste Collection	41.13		
<b>Total</b>		<b>£37,418.67</b>		

  

Ian Stemp	Second payment	40,239.56		
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Cllr York queried the Interim and second Payment. The Clerk informed members that the Contractor has asked for an interim payment and has signed off the first stage of the work. The contract with Burnham Landscapes states that payment, which should read Burnham’s, must be received within fourteen days of completion and there will not be another Council meeting to come into line with this payment, it had been added to this schedule to agree payment in advance. Cllr Batty felt that retention of payment was justified and that all manner of serious further expense faced the council. Cllr Hodges concurred with Cllr Batty all members should visit the site to ensure that they are all happy with the work and all the issues/problems raised at the site meeting. Cllr Batty felt that some of the work is very poor, as is dumping of soil unacceptable. He would not be participating in the partial completion meeting.

The Chairman cautioned members regarding their stated interests as being only personal, and asked that be recorded, along with Cllr Batty’s disagreement to this caution.

The Chairman suggested that the £30,295.03 is paid and then allows the potential retention of further payments until issues have been addressed; those may be discussed at the next Council meeting. Cllr Lock drew members’ attention to the meeting held in chambers of a Saturday morning which saw matters explained by the Clerk of Works to those in attendance, including waste depositing. Original contact was for a single payment on completion but hindered by delay due to inclement weather, and

had to be processed against final completion certificates allowing the council to draw back funds from FLAG. Chair drew debate to a close.

**A vote for payment of accounts was taken. For: 12 Abstentions: 1 (Cllr Batty).  
Payment of accounts was agreed.**

To be able to make the next payment it was required to nominate members to attend the site meeting so that all issues can be raised and resolved and also to have a pre meeting in Chambers to discuss the issues to be put forward at the site meeting. Cllrs Lock, Kennard, Purves (possible), Beck and Emmerson in reserve, will attend this meeting and Cllr Batty will put his concerns in writing.

**Cou/045/06-07 County Councillor Sprason’s Report**

**M1 Widening** – Representation has been made to the Highways Agency with potential concerns over the increased traffic on the A50 while the widening works are going on.

**Concessionary Travel** – The scheme will be funded until 2008 when the Government scheme comes in. Through the local area agreement Markfield has been identified as a stronger community and will mean that they have been working together with agencies and they have improved provision for all people and as part of the Markfield division it would include Field Head and Stanton Under Bardon.

**Markfield Library** – It has just opened and is a superb facility. There are people from Field Head already using it.

**Toucan Crossing** – Highways will be sending out a leaflet to all residents of Field Head explaining why they want to put a toucan crossing by the Coach and Horses and the reasons they can not put it at the preferred location on Ratby Lane. He also raised the issue of the Public Meeting that has been organised. He stated that at such short notice there is no way that he could attend. There then followed a lengthy discussion between Cllrs Sprason and Batty in relation to this meeting and to who had called it. It was stated that this was not for Cllr Batty to divulge in a public forum such as our chamber; the Chair suggested Cllrs Batty and Sprason exchange notes, to save the Council’s time. Cllr York asked Cllr Batty why he had only sent the invitational email to certain Cllrs; to which he responded that he sent it to the ones that he had email addresses for straight off. Several responses were made by councillors around the room. The Clerk read out the date and circulation list to Councillors of: Clerk, Cllrs Purves, Hodges, Martin Cartwright, and Cllr Dickson; confirming it was not addressed to her to “Circulate all Cllrs”, and had arrived too late for Councillors packs.

After a further exchange between Cllr Batty and Sprason, the Chairman intervened and stopped the exchange; asking Cllr Batty if what he thought he heard him state which asked Cllr Kennard to desist from finishing making a pxxxx of himself, and to let him finish speaking. That was confirmed and the Chair issued instructions to the Clerk that it be so noted in the record.

The email had been sent to the ones that he had email addresses for who attended the last meeting at Field Head. Cllr Coates stated she was also mystified by Cllr Batty’s somewhat ambiguous responses as to who were the selected few to get email invitations; if true, that it was to persons attending previous meetings in Field Head, why then, as a Ward Member for the area of many years, and she had been in attendance at earlier meetings, was her name also omitted.

**Cou/046/06-07 Planning**

<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>Appeal is now going to a public enquiry.</b> New Government guidelines in file. Copy sent to all members
06/00489/FUL	3 Tudor Grove	Erection of Conservatory	No Objection subject to neighbours

	Letter from Hutchinson 3G UK ltd	Re meeting to discuss base station	Noted. Letter back to urge meeting due to Council meeting with another operator and clarify objection to Scout hut proposal.
BL/02/3	Copy of Letter from Cllr Collins to O2	Re: Mobile Telecommunications Planning Application – land off Leicester Rd	Noted
JH/pj	Letter from LCC	Motorway Widening	Letter to LCC to urge them to work with the Park & Ride and Hospital to stagger the works to ensure that Groby does not become gridlocked as they are all working to similar deadlines.
	Letter from East Midlands Regional Assembly	Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan: Proposed Alteration to the review project plan	Noted.
	Letter from LCC	ROWIP Consultation – Rights of Way Maps	Noted
CS/P/RJW/06/00348/FUL	Chapel Hill	Letter from HBBC re planning comments	Noted. Parish Council's comments were taken on board.
PDS/IJD/ARY/RR58	Glenfield Hospital	Letter from LCC re proposed remodelling of Glenfield Hospital highways and transportation issues.	As above.
CS/P/RJW/06/00260/OUT	Rookery Lane 3 & 5: Part demolition of no.3 and erection of bungalow	Letter from HBBC re Planning Application 06/00260/OUT	Noted. £1,850 expected in section 106 monies.
	Letter from HBBC	Licensing Act 2003 Information for Parish Councils	Members encouraged to read this as it contains important information.
JH/JRH/GROBY2	Letter from Environment Agency	Pollution prevention & control regulations 2000. Landfill regulations 2002. Bradgate Landfill site permit number BW0509IU. Ref: Contingency Plan in the event of a structural failure of the Groundwater tower & illegal operations.	<b>Letter to Environment Agency: thanking them for their response but request they answer the specific questions put to them.</b>

		Local Authority Bye Laws in England	Cllr York has provided some comments but please could members add to these asap
		Planning for Gypsy & Travellers sites	<b>Recommend all members to read this document as it is very relevant to the situation we have in Groby</b>
		Leics Local Forum	Paths are below par Action : Letter to be sent

**Allotment Gardens, Newtown Linford Lane** - Cllr Purves stated that she felt all members should look at the latest guidelines on Gypsies and Travellers. The Chairman raised the issue of comments received from Cllr Batty after he met with the Borough Council's Barrister and the picture that he painted which was not one of optimism. The Chairman asked whether the monies put aside by the Parish Council would be good money after bad or good money to secure a result? Cllr Batty felt that it would be good money towards securing a result. The Barristers advice is for the Parish Council to come at this from a local knowledge point of view and try and obtain as many statements as possible from the local community with regards to the history and use of the site and also obtain local information, i.e. the travellers are not persistently staying there, they have not got children in local schools etc. The Barrister felt that Councils money would be better spent employing a qualified planning Solicitor.

The Chairman wished to exclude himself from any discussions on Masts or Operators and asked for a Vice Chairman to be elected, in light of Cllr Cartwright's holiday absence. It was proposed that Cllr Lock would take over as Vice Chairman for the remainder of the item. This was agreed unanimously.

*The Chairman left the meeting at 8.30 pm returning after the conclusion of Planning Agenda.*

**Letter from Hutchinson 3G UK Ltd** – It is felt that they seemed to be confused about our response to them stating that the Scout Hut location was definitely not acceptable. **It was suggested that the Clerk will write to 3G to inform them that Council require an urgent meeting with them in light of the concerns around the Village with another operator.** The Clerk informed Council that this would be the third letter which has gone to them and the same response has been received twice.

*Cllr York left the meeting at 8.33 pm and returned 8.38pm*

**02 Phone Mast** – The Clerk stated that at the last meeting she informed members that Pentland, who are acting on behalf of 02 had contacted the office in relation to setting up a site meeting. She has now received a phone call from Pentland and they indicated that they were looking at an alternative location in Groby. They indicated that they were no longer interested in the Blue Bell Drive area any longer and it was now the piece of land off Chechveral Way. She is making progress on setting up this meeting before 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**LCC Motorway Widening & Glenfield Hospital** – The Clerk will send a letter to LCC asking them to work together within the areas to ensure that Groby is not deadlocked because these issues will all be coming up at the same time.

**Letter from Environmental Agency** – The letter received in response to the Councils letter was not specific enough, they were asked to respond to specific questions, which have not been done. **The Clerk will send them another copy of the original letter sent.**

**Letter from Leicestershire Local Forum** – They asked for Council to come up with any public footpaths that need upgrading. **The Clerk will write to them and make comments on J92, R37, R39 and R40, all of which are below par.**

**Cou/047/06-07 Police Report**

Crime	Number – Groby
Burglary –Dwelling	3

Burglary – Other	0
Robbery	0
Vehicle – Taking	1
Vehicle – Taking From	5
Vehicle – Damage	4
Non-Domestic Assaults	2
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Crime</b>	<b>Number – Field Head</b>
Vehicle – Taking from	1
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>2</b>

*Cllr Jones left the meeting at 8.29 pm returning at 8.31 pm.*

**Cou/048/06-07 Working Groups**

It was decided that the following Working Groups were set up and members volunteered as listed below.

**Affordable Housing Survey** – Cllrs Cartwright , Dickson and Jones - to oversee survey to be sent out (will be time limited due to the surveys having to be sent out)

**CCTV** – Cllrs York and Cartwright – to look at areas where CCTV would be useful and then ascertain costs and report back within 90 days

**Burial** – Cllrs Coates and Emmerson – to tie down terms and conditions of burial policies and procedures to report back in 60 days

**Quarry Field Play Equipment/Field Head Play Equipment** – Cllrs Kennard and Lock to look at Quarry Field Play Equipment and Field Head Play Equipment needs to be brought back as an agenda item at a future meeting

**Groby in Bloom** – Cllrs Beck, Purves, York, Coates, Marvin and Dickson – already existing

**Village Hall (rent review)** – Cllrs York, Hagan and Hodges – to come up with a workable solution towards discussing a rent review

**Recording Equipment** – Cllrs Cartwright, Lock and Dickson – to assess cost and replacement of recording equipment as it has been decided Best Practice to continue to record meetings.

**Grants** – Cllrs Lock, Kennard and Marvin

**Phone Masts** – Cllrs Lock, Marvin and Cartwright, Cllr Batty as Borough – as agreed at the last meeting

**Klondyke** – Council representatives – Cllrs Batty, Lock, Emmerson and Purves (standby) are nominated to speak to lawyers and ascertain costs etc, meet to discuss and then come back with recommendations to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cou/049/06-07 Emergency Committee**

This Committee is set up in case the Clerk is not available for any reason. The question was raised whether the Emergency Committee could in effect run the Council if the Clerk is not available for a long period of time and in emergency situations? Cllr Batty felt that it was only to deal with every day emergencies as they arise.

It was felt that current Committee should put together some points and check them with The Secretary of LRAPLC, and report back to Council.

Cllrs, Hollick, Cartwright, Kennard and Marvin (reserve) are members already, making up the Emergency Committee.

**Cou/050/06-07 Correspondence**

**16296** – E mail re website - Cllr Cartwright is not here to discuss so it will be brought forward to next meeting.

**16490** – Groby Youth Day – The Clerk informed members that sponsorship for this was not in the current budget and generally donations are not made. Will be discussed under Budgets

*Cllr Batty declared a personal interest in item 16490 and left the meeting at 9.24 pm returning 9.25 pm*

**16494** – Noted

**16495** – Noted

**16498** – Noted

**16497** - Letter re Allotments – Noted that whilst letter was addressed to Cllr Hagan, it was effectively to Chair and Members. Whilst Council want to support grant applications there are some reservations about having to maintain the roadways. Council to date have not received a copy of the grant application. The

Allotment Society have contacted Borough Council directly. The question was asked how Council can support something that they have not seen witness to. The Clerk will write to the Allotment Society and ask for information and invite them to come to a future meeting to discuss this with members. It was also asked that Cllr Batty go back to the Borough and let them know that Council wishes in principal to support the application but needs to discuss it further and in depth with the Allotment Society.

**Cou/051/06-07 Revised Budget**

The Clerk tabled a schedule of the budget, this included proposed revised figures. She then went through the areas which have an effect on the budget. It has been checked with Ian Fraser who has confirmed that the budget can be revised as long as it is not continually revised. The Clerk also informed the members in relation to the provision for a Mower. It has now become a health and safety issue due to various incidents that have taken place.

**It was proposed by Cllr Lock that the mower is taken out of service; this was seconded by Cllr Kennard. A vote was taken and a unanimous decision reached.**

**It was proposed by Cllr Jones that a new mower is purchased with a maximum purchase price of £3,200.00; this was seconded by Cllr Marvin. A vote was taken and a unanimous decision reached.**

**The Clerk will re-circulate a copy of the wish list to help members with the revised budget.**

**Cou/052/06-07 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006

*Members of the public left the meeting at 9.50 pm.*

*The Council moved into closed session at 9.50 pm.*

*The meeting closed at 10.15pm.*

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

*Closed Session of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006*

**Resolved that the minutes of the closed session of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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 – Cllr Coates declared a prejudicial interest.

A vote was taken and a unanimous decision reached. Cllrs Emmerson and Hodges abstained as they were not in attendance at the meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.**

**Payment of Accounts, Guardian Security**

The Clerk informed members that no letter has been received from Guardian Security and the payment is still being held off.

**Staffing Matters:**

Cllr Hollick tabled a proposal from the Staffing Committee:-

1. Confirm the appointment of Mrs Y Walters as Assistant Proper Officer and Assistant RFO from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006.
2. Appoint Mrs Y Walters as Proper Officer and RFO from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 until a suitable candidate is appointed.
3. The contract of Ms Palma as Proper Officer and RFO is terminated with effect from COP Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
4. The Recruitment Working Group to meet as soon as possible to review the paperwork supplied to them from the previous working party and recommends any changes and set into motion the advertising and filling of the post.

**This was proposed by Cllr Hodges and seconded by Cllr Dickson. A vote was taken and a unanimous decision reached.**

*The meeting closed at 9.59 pm.*