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Groby Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 3 December 2007 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/228/07-08 Present

Members: Cllr P Batty (Chair), Cllr Purves, Cllr J Batty, Cllr Beck, Cllr Cartwright, Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Hodges, Cllr Hollick, Cllr Jones, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Marvin, Cllr J Smith, Cllr L Smith and Cllr Stockill.

Cou/229/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Yarwood and Mr Sprason.

Cou/230/07-08 Declarations of Interest

All Councillors declared a personal interest in the planning application 07/01139/FUL 32 Beaumont Green.

Cllr P Batty – Any matters relating to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council as Groby Ward Borough Councillor.

Cllr Beck – Personal interest the Druck Lease and as a member of the Allotment Society Committee

Cllr Cartwright - Personal Interest as Secretary, Groby Neighbourhood Watch and Committee Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Neighbourhood Watch Association, all items on the Agenda as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor.

Cllr Hodges – Personal Interest in Public Open Spaces specifically Stamford Drive

Cllr Hollick – as a member of Groby Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Purves – Personal interest in Payment of Accounts (Groby in Bloom)

Cllr J Smith – Personal interest in the Druck Lease.

Cllr Stockill – Prejudicial interest in the planning application for 32 Beaumont Green

Cou/231/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2007 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendments.

Cou/199/07-08 – Public Participation

Page 70, line 3 amend “weather” to “whether”

Cou/207/07-08 – Data Protection Act

Amend final sentence to read “ If a Councillor’s circumstances change in that they become subject to the requirement to register, they should inform the Clerk and the Council will register them and pay the appropriate fee.”

Cou/218/07-08 – The Klondyke

Third paragraph – add a full stop after high and delete “and”

Cou/220/07-08 – Field Head School Travel / Safe Route Concerns

Amend (i) to read “that the Director of Children and Young People’s Service be requested as a matter of urgency to conduct an updated Risk Assessment of the route with the route being identified as being from the residential area of Field Head to South Charnwood High School.”

And insert:

“that the previous Risk Assessment be requested”

Cou/221/07-08 – Security of Parish Land

First line – replace “if” with “of”

Amend second paragraph to read: “**RESOLVED** after being proposed by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor L Smith that a letter be sent to Martinshaw School seeking its co-operation over the opening and closing of the gates between the hours specified i.e. half an hour before and after school start time and half an hour before and after school end.”

Cou/222/07-08 – Payment of Accounts

Insert “prejudicial” before “interest”

Cou/225/07-08 - Correspondence

17245 – Cllr Purves – Accident A50

Amend to read “**RESOLVED** after it was proposed by Councillor Purves and seconded by Councillor J Smith that Councillor Purves with the Clerk compile a strongly worded response to the e-mail supporting residents in the area.”

RESOLVED that the Closed Session minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendment.

Staffing Matters

Amend to read “The Council **AGREED** that the Clerk be paid for her absence as a result of a family bereavement that precipitated a genuine illness.”

Cou/232/07-08 Matters Arising

Cou/217/07-08 – Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service – “Our Plan 2008 – 2011”

One place remained for the Stakeholders Meeting on 14 December 2007 any member interested in taking the place should contact the Clerk for further information.

Cou/220/07-08 – Field Head School Travel / Safe Route Concerns

The response from Stephen Dorrell MP was commented upon and it was **AGREED** that a letter should be sent expressing that the Council was far from satisfied with the response from the County Council.

Cou/221/07-08 – Security of Parish Council Land

It was asked if the letter had been sent to Martinshaw School. The Chairman confirmed that it had not as he and the Clerk had visited the school to express the views of the Parish Council. **AGREED** that a letter be sent to Martinshaw School stating that if the requirements of the Parish Council were not met that the lock to the gates would be changed. The school also to be reminded that the incursion at Groby Pool Car Park took place close to Christmas.

At 7.25pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and adjourned the meeting for a period not exceeding thirty minutes to receive reports from representatives of outside bodies and to include a short period of Public Participation not exceeding 15 minutes.

Cou/233/07-08 County Councillor Report

County Councillors Sprason had provided a written report that had been distributed to Councillors and was available to those members of the public present at the meeting.

Cou/234/07-08 Borough Councillor Report

A Borough Councillors written report had been provided by Councillor P Batty and had been distributed to Councillors and those members of the public present at the meeting.

Councillor Purves commented on the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council report that their Planning Department is one of the best on the country and that previous agreements with the Parish Council in relation to consultation on new developments and small areas of public open space in residential developments had not been followed through.

AGREED that after publication of the Borough Bulletin a letter be sent to HBBC reminding them of the previous agreement that the Parish Council would be consulted on and involved in applications for proposed new developments and that consultation would take place with regards to small areas of public open space in residential developments.

Cou/235/07-08 Public Participation

In connection with the LDF it was asked by a member of the public if the rumours concerning developments were being spread by another Council. It was confirmed that the rumours were emanating from an individual source and that this was causing concern and worry in the village. Councillor Cartwright reconfirmed the process that sites submitted for consideration would have to progress through.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.35pm

Cou/236/07-08 Clerks Report

- (i) Allotment Society
To save administrative time and costs the Allotment Society were now administering the issuing and return of keys for the allotments with the office holding the master keys. The key deposit of £2.50 was now non-refundable and covered the cost of having the key cut.
- (ii) The Old Hall
An e-mail had been received from Barry Whirrity, Conservation Officer at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in response to the letter from the Council stating that "things are moving on re the Old Hall and an offer has been submitted to the managing agents to retain it as a house." He will keep the Council informed of any progress.
- (iii) Village Hall Rent
To save on administration and cheque costs the Village Hall rent would be paid via Standing Order, it would appear on payment schedule prior to the payment date for approval as normal.
- (iv) Online Banking
The Clerk sought approval to increase the daily transaction limit to £6000 as salary payments were in the region of the current limit of £5000, with the back pay paid in November 2007 the amount was over the £5000 limit and the Clerk was paid on 3 December rather than the 30 November.

AGREED after it was proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Lindsay to increase the daily transaction limit to £6,000.
- (v) Preparation of Budget
The Statement of Accounts for 2006-07 had been circulated to those who had indicated they would be happy to assist with the preparation of the budget for 2008/09. Those members were asked to contact the Clerk to indicate if they wished to forward their comments or meet to discuss the issue.
- (vi) Trees at Quarry Field
The tree work had been undertaken and the clump adjacent to the A50 was thinned and pollarded rather than being removed, making the trees safe. The stumps have been left in on the other clump at a height of 4 feet. These stumps form no immediate health and safety risk by toppling but in years to come will have to be removed due to decay underneath. They can be removed now but this will lead to the bank becoming unstable and this will require immediate remedial works to stabilise it and this would cost in excess of £3000. It was difficult to confirm the availability of this money as the trees are on the land leased by the Scouts. The Clerk recommended that the stumps be left in for this winter and the Council **AGREED** with this recommendation. The Clerk was liaising with LCC Highways to arrange the tarmac on their section of the path before Christmas. Councillor Cartwright reported that the contractor had now completed the works on the path in accordance with the specification and recommended that the remaining invoice be settled.

RESOLVED after it was moved by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor P Batty that the invoice submitted by Greg Thurlow be paid.
- (vii) Druck Lease
The Clerk requested permission to sign the Druck lease once approval had been received from the Council's solicitors. The legal fees were likely to be in the region of £3,000. A quote of £1500 plus VAT for the fencing of the new car parking area in the same style as that at Sycamore Car Park had been received and approval of that quote was sought by the Clerk.

RESOLVED after it had been proposed by Councillor Lindsay and seconded by Councillor L

Smith to accept the quote of £1500 plus VAT.

Councillor P Batty sought the approval of the Council for the taking on of Covenant Insurance of £256 if necessary. The Council **AGREED** that this should, if necessary, be done. It was also reported that there would need to be a Licence Agreement to allow use of the car park for 28 days.

Councillor P Batty also stated that the new car park would require some form of surfacing and proposed that a £3,000 contingency fund should be established and that these fund should be taken from the CCTV budget. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to the provision and **NOTED** that this would be covered in the Clerks report on Budget Review/Transfer of Funds.

(viii) Positioning of Container at Launde Road on Parish Council Land

The Clerk reported that the County Council had placed a container on land at Launde Road and had been driving heavy vehicles across the grassed area whilst highway works were being undertaken. Initially the County Council had refused to acknowledge that the land belonged to the Parish Council however following a communication from the Chairman the County Council removed the container in question.

The Clerk proposed that the Parish Council should write to the County Council expressing its disappointment that the County Council failed to check ownership of the land prior to siting the container, that the Parish Council was not acknowledged as the land owner and requesting details of what immediate remedial work will be taken to reinstate the site and details of compensation.

RESOLVED after it was proposed by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor L Smith to accept the Clerks proposition.

(ix) Data Protection Act

The packs received from the Information Commissioner had been distributed to Councillors, after completion they should be returned to the Clerk who would arrange for their return with the appropriate fee.

(x) Office Security

The new alarm system had been installed however a problem had developed with the entry keypad. An engineer would be inspecting the fault the following day.

At 7.25pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders

Cou/237.07-08 Police Report

PC Kelly provided an update and the Crime Figures for September 2007

House Burglaries (Attempted)	0
House Burglaries (Actual)	1
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Attempted)	0
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Actual)	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1
Theft From Motor Vehicle	1
Damage to Motor Vehicle	4
Non-Domestic Assaults	3
Domestic Assaults	0
Robbery	0
Crimes That Don't Affect Residents	10
Total Groby Crime Figures	23

PC Kelly commented that the disbanding of the 101 call system would have no direct effect on policing in the village as any calls to 101 that had required Police attendance would automatically be referred to him.

Councillor L Smith asked if calls from mobile phones to 112 was an alternative to calling 999. It transpired that this service was available and was an agreement between mobile phone networks to provide blanket emergency coverage regardless of the network signal in the area. Calls made via one network were automatically transferred to another if there was no signal in the area. The service was primarily for use of visitors to the UK who were used to the 112 number.

Cou/238/07-08 Planning and Development Committee

Councillor Purves, Chair of the Planning and Development Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2007.

- a. **07/01139/FUL -32 Beaumont Green**
Application is for a conservatory: Neighbours should be consulted.
- b. **07/01097/FUL -67 Lime Avenue**
Members would have preferred the use of MET posts on the garden side of the wall as this would in there view made a neater outlook on the outside boundary of the property.

Leicestershire Together – Public Consultation on Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

Member are requested to read this document and leave their comments in the file for the next planning meeting

LCC – Groby, Newtown Linford Lane – Proposed speed limit extension and waiting restrictions

No objection but would ask that consideration be given to extending this speed limit to the north east side of the A 50 bridge.

Leics Fire and Rescue Service – Our Plan : 2008 to 2011 Draft for consultation

It is recommended that as Cllr P Batty and one other Councillor were attending the consultation meeting that they complete the questionnaire.

RESOLVED having been proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Hodges that the above comments be submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee be approved.

Cou/239/07-08 Payment of Accounts

Councillor Purves declared a personal interest in Payment of Accounts.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the payment of accounts schedule be approved.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Allotment Tenant	Key refund	2.50
BT plc	Cemetery bill	71.36
BT plc	Office bill	133.91
Various	November salaries	5164.44
HM Revenue & Customs Only	Tax & National Ins	2164.22
HBBC	Office & Cemetery Rates	256.00
Konica Minolta	Quarterly assignment and photocopies	135.65
RCS Cobby	Parks hedge cutting	235.00
MAP Waste	Skip for Quarry store clearance	130.00
Lyco Direct Ltd	Replacement xmas bulbs	52.86
		£8,345.94

RESOLVED to approve the payment of accounts Schedule as set out above.

Cou/240/07-08 Budget Review/Transfer of Funds

The Clerk informed the Council that funds required transferring into the following areas to secure the completion of priority projects within the current Financial Year.

Quarry Field – Works required in tandem with the Druck Lease

Additional Legal Fees	£2500
Fence for new car park	£2000
Link path from new path to gate	£ 500
Gravel/Surface Coating for new car park	£3000
	£8000

Proposed to move this money from the CCTV budget which currently stands at £11,000

It was proposed by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the transfer be approved.

External Support

Due to fees incurred whilst the Council had no Clerk and in connection with the Best Value Review there has been an overspend on External Support. Proposed to transfer £2,000 from Admin Salaries to External Support.

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Marvin that the transfer be approved.

General Fees Including Back Fees

Require a transfer of £750 from General Administration to prevent an overspend

It was proposed by Councillor Marvin and seconded by Councillor J Smith that the transfer be approved

RESOLVED to approve the transfers of fund as detailed above.

Cou/241/07-08 Correspondence Received in respect of Quarry Field

The Parish Council had received copies of correspondence addressed to County Councillor R Fraser concerning Quarry Playing Field. The letters suggested that there was a danger to the public using the playing field as a result of matter deposited in the landfill and that there was a risk of fire. The correspondence also stated that 200 houses were to be built in close proximity to the site.

The issue of Quarry Playing Field had previously been raised by the Parish Council with the Environmental Health Department at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and the area had been given a clean bill of health by them. The Parish Council's insurers had been happy with the report provided by the Borough Council. The Parish Council had therefore discharged its responsibilities following the previous raising of the issue.

The Council **RESOLVED**, by 11 votes for with 3 abstentions (Councillors Emmerson, Beck and S Jones):

- (i) to respond to the correspondence in the following manner "The correspondence you have copied to the Parish Council has been forwarded to the Council's Solicitors as will any further correspondence received from you on this subject."
- (ii) that the Parish Council is appalled by copies of communications it has seen with regard to a supposed planning application for 200 houses being built and that Quarry Field is unsafe. The Parish Council has previously taken all action to prove that the area is safe.

Cou/242/07-08 Correspondence

17251 - Request for Ashes Plot – To refuse the request as the persons concerned are not residents of Groby.

17265 - PRIDE – Add £500 to existing money banked with PRIDE and to revisit the topic in December 2008 if they have used the funds. Publicity will appear in the Spotlight with regards to how to apply to the scheme and PRIDE will assess the applicants.

17269 – 41 Oakmeadow Road – That the current tree survey for the area be checked and that a response in accordance with the Tree Maintenance Policy be sent to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

Cou/243/07-08 Date of Next Meeting

17 December 2007 as per the previously agreed schedule.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.50pm and the Council adjourned for a comfort break and reconvened at 9.05pm moving into closed session.

At 10pm the Chairman moved Standing Order 82 to allow the meeting to continue for a further 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Closed Session of the meeting held on 3 December 2007

Report of the Working Party on the Best Value Review of Grounds Maintenance

The Council considered the report of the Working Party on the Best Value Review of Grounds Maintenance.

The Council **RESOLVED** that it was minded to move to Option 3 subject to further discussions with the Operatives.

The motion was carried 11 votes for with 3 against. Votes against were cast by Councillors Emmerson, Hollick and Jones.

Staffing Matters

NOTED that work would be commencing on the production of a Bereavement policy for the Council.

Scout Lease / Correspondence and Tree Works at Quarry Park

Due to the expiration of the allotted meeting time these matters were not discussed.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed
Chairman

Date