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Groby Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 1 October 2007 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/151/07-08 Present

Members: Cllr Batty (Chair), Cllr Purves, Cllr Beck, Cllr Cartwright (from 7.58pm), Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Hodges, Cllr Hollick, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr J Smith, Cllr L Smith, Cllr Yarwood

Cou/152/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Marvin, Cllr Jones, Cllr Cartwright for lateness and Mr Sprason CC.

Cou/153/07-08 Declarations of Interest

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

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

Cllr L Smith – a Personal Interest in Item 14 Highway Concerns in Groby

Cllr Cartwright - Personal Interest as Chairman of the Groby Parish Plan Project, 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, Personal Interest in the Groby Parish Plan Project and would remain in the room during discussion but would not take part in any vote on it.

(Councillor Cartwright declared his interests on arrival at the meeting.)

Cllr Hodges - Public Open Spaces specifically Stamford Drive

Cllr Lindsay – Personal Interest Groby Parish Plan Project

Cou/154/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007 be accepted and signed as true record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Closed Session meeting held on 17 September 2007 be accepted and signed as true record.

The Council issued a vote of thanks to the Clerk for the minutes.

Cou/155/07-08 Matters Arising

From the minutes of the 17 September 2007:

Cou/133/07-08 – Councillor Batty confirmed that if Councillor Hollick wished to submit a formal proposal relating to the sending of e-mails and Councillors Packs the item would be included on a future agenda.

Cou/135/07-08 – The Clerk informed the Council that the precept for the same period in 2006/07 was £86,495 and had been paid on 15 September 2006, the amount in 2007/08 had been £88,657 paid on 31 August 2007.

Cou/135/07-08 – A meeting of the Working Party was yet to be convened, dates were to be submitted to the Clerk who would make the necessary arrangements.

Cou/138/07-08 – The advertisement would be placed by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as part of a joint advertisement with other Parish Councils, 50% of the cost would be funded by the Borough.

Cou/139/07-08 – There had been developments following a meeting with the County Council Highways Department, these would be reported fully under agenda item 12.

Cou/140/07-08 – The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk would be moving things forward at a meeting with the Council's solicitors at a meeting on 4 October 2007.

Cou/141/07-08 – The Clerk updated the Council with regards to a telephone call with the FLAG Officer. FLAG would undertake a site visit during wet weather to establish the extent of the flooding and would contact the Parish Council again. From initial discussions it seemed that the matter was one between the Parish Council and the Consultant but further discussions would be held within the FLAG Team to assess what assistance could be provided. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether the Consultant's details had been supplied on an "approved" basis.

Cou/147/07-08 – Highfield Park Amenity Area – It was clarified by the Clerk that the ROSPA report had not identified the park as a risk area and proposed by Councillor Yarwood and seconded by Councillor Lindsay that local residents would be consulted as to the return of the lay equipment.

RESOLVED that local residents in the Highfield Park Amenity Area be consulted as to the return of the play equipment.

There were no matters arising from the Closed Session minutes of 17 September 2007.

At 7.24pm 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/156/07-08 Public Participation

Mr Palmer raised the issue of school transport from Field Head to South Charnwood High School which featured as an item on the agenda. Councillor Batty proposed that when the debate took place on this item Standing Orders would again be suspended to allow Mr Palmer to speak on the issue.

A resident asked about vandalism that was taking place at the Old Hall. The Parish Council had no jurisdiction over the site as it was in private ownership although a planning application had been submitted for conversion of the barn to residential properties. Councillor Beck commented on the amount of overhanging trees in the area and the Clerk was requested to write to the Highways Office at Nailstone expressing the concerns of the Parish Council in this regard.

Councillor Hollick commented on the condition of the Old Hall Tower. Again the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over the property but would not want to see it decline, it was only in the position of being able to make representations.

Representations would be made at the workshop regarding the Local Development Framework being held on 1 November regarding the listed buildings in Groby.

The Affordable Housing Survey was raised in connection with the article that had appeared in the Spotlight. It was clarified that the survey did not put any land owned by the Parish Council up for sale or any other land in the village being designated for affordable housing by the Parish Council adopting the report. The Parish Council would insist on full consultation if any plans were put forward by developers for affordable housing.

It was questioned who had placed the order for the Marina Park footpath. Councillor Batty commented that the landscape consultant had recommended the contractor and that the Parish Council was not satisfied with the quality of the work and that the matter was being pursued.

Cou/157/07-08 County Councillor Reports

County Councillors Fraser and Sprason had provided a written report and these had been distributed to Councillors and were distributed to those members of the public present at the meeting.

Cou/158/07-08 Borough Councillor Report

Borough Councillors Batty and Cartwright had provided a written report and these had been distributed to Councillors and were distributed to those members of the public present at the meeting.

Cou/159/07-08 Police Report

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

	Grobby
House Burglaries (Attempted)	0
House Burglaries (Actual)	3
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Attempted)	0
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Actual)	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2
Theft From Motor Vehicle	6
Damage to Motor Vehicle	3
Non-Domestic Assaults	5
Domestic Assaults	1
Robbery	0
Crimes That Don't Affect Residents	11
Total Grobby Crime Figures	32

In response to a question from a member of the public concerning youths entering The Old Hall and causing damage PC Kelly stated that there were no visible signs of damage and the owners had been contacted with regards to making the property secure. He would write again to the owners with the same request expressing concerns and copy the Conservation Officer at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in on the correspondence. With regards to the local person who appeared to have taken up residence at the Hall, PC Kelly would talk with the persons responsible for him.

PC Kelly commented that there was no consistent record of incidents at Grobby Pool and that incidents needed to be reported so ensure that correct statistics were available.

Speeding traffic through the village would continue to be targeted along with racing on Sacheverell Way.

It was confirmed that parking on the pavement was an offence but that each case was looked at individually the test being that a pram or pushchair could pass the vehicle on the pavement and that the parking did not restrict the passage of a fire engine along the road.

Councillor Cartwright joined the meeting at 7.58pm.

PC Kelly asked if assistance could be provide to the Police with regards to the storage of two pedal cycles, although access would be required on a 24/7 basis. Councillor Emmerson would contact PC Kelly as she felt she could provide the assistance required.

It was highlighted that another Beat Surgery would be held in November 2007.

At 8.04pm the Chairman re-instated Standing Orders and re-convened the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Batty that when the item concerning School Transport was discussed Standing Orders would again be suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders for a period of 10 minutes during the debate on School Transport from Field Head to South Charnwood High School to allow members of the public to speak.

Cou/160/07-08 Planning and Development Committee 29 September 2007

Councillor Purves, Chair of the Planning and Development Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2007. The Council noted the following comments made in respect of recently received planning applications.

- a. 07/01050/FUL 53 Lime Avenue
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted
- b. 07/00716/FUL The Brant Inn, Leicester Road
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted
- c. 07/01053/FUL 227 Markfield Road
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted

- d. 07/01082/FUL 25 Garendon Way
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted
- e. 07/01076/FUL Stone Lodge, Branting Hill
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted. Groby Parish Council request confirmation that an additional 106 contribution will be requested for the extra unit.

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

Cou/161/07-08 Payment of Accounts

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

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Date Paid</i>	<i>Cheque No.</i>
		£		
Various	September salaries	4,593.41	28.09.2007	Bacs payment
HM Revenue & Customs Only	Tax & National Ins	1,811.38	01.10.2007	Bacs payment
HBBC	Office & Cemetery Rates	256.00		
Konica Minolta	Photocopies	16.29		
ESPO	Office Stationery & Parks Consumables	104.29		
Wildwood Landscape Machinery Ltd	Mower belt	18.00		
S.F.B Mobile Tyre Service Centre	Puncture Repair	10.00		
		£6,809.37		

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

Cou/162/07-08 School Transport from Field Head to South Charnwood High School

Following the discussion on this item at the meeting on 3 September 2007 (minute Cou/123/07-08 refers) the Council debated further the issues.

A letter had been sent to Mr Sprason CC via the Clerk asking him to identify the route that children should take to walk to school, where roads should be crossed, a safe cycle route and street lighting and signage on the identified route to which a response was awaited.

It was felt that the walking and cycling routes suggested by the County Council were not safe and that the Parish Council should not be looking to contribute to subsidise the bus service. At the meeting held with Highways Officers on 25 September 2007 it had been confirmed that there was no safe route to the school. It was noted that free travel had been available until the crossing had come into use and once the crossing is maintained by Highways then the implication is that it is safe to cross, however it was not safe to use.

At 8.20pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to express their views.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that he had written a number of letters to Mr Sprason and that the replies he had received had not been relevant to the questions he had asked. He had not seen anyone walk the specified route and asked if Markfield Parish Council had been contacted with regards to the issue.

It was confirmed by Councillor Batty that he had discussed the matter with the Chairman of Markfield Parish Council and that he supported the view that the route was not safe.

At 8.30pm Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was questioned how other areas in a similar position had managed to obtain transport and the view was expressed that it had been a County Council decision which had been supported by Mr Sprason. Concerns were raised that there was urgency to the issue as the clock would soon change and children would be walking to and from school in the dark.

After a full and wide ranging discussion it was moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor J Smith that the Parish Council should write to all interested parties (with copies to Markfield Parish Council and Mr Palmer) raising the issue of the walking and cycling routes, seeking clarification of the measured route, requesting that a proper risk assessment is undertaken, reiterating the points raised in the letter sent to Mr Sprason and that the letter should be sent to the local MP requesting support on behalf of the parents. A request also to be sent to Mr Sprason for a copy of the adopted school travel plan.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Parish Council write to the appropriate Highways Officer at the County Council setting out all the issues in full and requesting a full risk assessment. The letter to be copied to Mr Sprason CC, Mr Fraser CC, Markfield Parish Council and Mr Palmer;
- (ii) that the Parish Council write to the appropriate Education Officer requesting clarification of the measured route of 2.8miles; and
- (iii) that copies of the letters be sent to the local MP with a covering letter requesting support for the issue.
- (iv) that the matter be brought back to the Council when a response had been received.

Cou/163/07-08 Clerks Report

The Clerk informed the Council of a number of issues:

- (i) Resignations
That a total of three resignations had been received – Councillors Brierley, Coates and Trant
- (ii) 2007/08 Budget
That the 2007/08 budget had been included with the papers for the meeting to refresh Councillors memories and to assist to in the preparation of the 2008/09 budget.
- (iii) 2006/2007 Budget
Notification had been received from the Council's External Auditors that a return had not been submitted by the deadline of 30 September 2007. The Clerk was currently working on the return and was aiming to present the return for approval to the 15 October 2007 meeting of the Council.
- (iv) County Service
The County Service was being held on 14 October 2007 at 10.30am, Councillors were requested to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.
- (v) Community Forum
The Community Forum was a new countywide initiative by Leicestershire County Council and the Parish Council had been invited to an Induction Session that clashed with the Council meeting currently taking place. Arrangements had been made for two members of the Council to attend a further induction session being held on 16 October 2007. Any members interested in attending should contact the Clerk.
- (vi) Empty Homes Strategy
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as undertaking a review of empty properties that have been standing empty for more than six months. The Parish Council is invited to comment on the wider issues of empty property prior to the production of an information leaflet that will raise awareness of the issue.
- (vii) Quarry Footpath
The site meeting with Highways had taken place with the Clerk, Councillors Cartwright and Lindsay present. The end of the path leading onto the A50 required a dog leg at a 90 degree angle to prevent egress onto the A50. Highways would provide the necessary barrier at no charge and to prevent the washing of the path surface onto the A50 would tarmac the surface up

to the Parish Council boundary following the scraping back of the surface by 75mm. The safety hoops were no longer required but it may not be possible to cancel the order at short notice, however, it was felt that if necessary these could be used on other Parish Council owned land.

Councillor Cartwright raised the issue of the surface of the path, the remedial works had improved it but it was still loose and overall unsuitable, a 6mm Breedon topping would have been more suitable and hardwearing. The original specification had not included a specified surface treatment, it had been left to the tenderers to identify what would be, in their opinion, suitable.

The cost of providing the dog leg, a distance of approximately 6 to 8 feet, could be borne within the budget already allocated to the scheme but if resurfacing along the whole of the path were to be undertaken there would be additional cost.

It was proposed by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor Hollick that the contractor should be approached to ascertain the cost of the resurfacing of the path and that a budget of a maximum of £1,000 be set to undertake the works to provide a dog leg at the A50 end of the path.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that Councillors Cartwright and J Smith be authorised to approach Greg Thurlow to seek a quote for resurfacing of the path in a more suitable material and that they report back to the Council on their negotiations; and
- (b) that a budget up to a maximum of £1,000 be authorised to undertake the works required to provide a dog leg to the footpath at the A50 end.

(vii) Graffiti

Reports of graffiti had been received and investigations were currently taking place as to the use of the Youth Offending Team and the Graffiti Removal Service to remove it. Both services provided supervised labour and would be at no cost to the Parish Council.

(viii) Lady Jane Grey School

Ten tons of gravel had been removed from the footpaths at the school and it had become apparent during the removal that it was being disposed of not because of insurance conditions imposed by the County Council but that the gravel had been thrown into the playground. It has also transpired that the area was covered by CCTV and that the camera would eventually be obscured by a hedge that the school did not want to cut.

Councillor Cartwright read a letter of thanks for the work undertaken from the school. Councillor L Smith declared a personal interest at this point as the author of the letter was known to him.

The Clerk confirmed that the payment of £400 had not yet been made and it was moved by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor Purves that further clarification should be sought from the school on what the payment will be used for and that Councillor Cartwright and one other Councillor should continue discussions with the school.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the payment of £400 be made to Lady Jane Grey School and that it should be accompanied by a letter asking for details of what the money will be spent on and that this should be reported back to the Council; and
 - (b) that Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Lindsay should continue discussions with the school.
- (ix) The Clerk stated that she had been notified of a training workshop for Clerks being run by the LRAPLC on 7 November 2007 and sought approval for her attendance and the fee payable of £25.

Following a proposal by Councillor L Smith and it being seconded by Councillor Hodges it was **RESOLVED** that the attendance at the workshop and the fee of £25 be approved.

(x) Groby Pool Meeting

A meeting with representatives of the Parish Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and the Police had been held to discuss the ongoing issue at Groby Pool. The Borough Council would be drafting a community consultation on the car park concerning the opening hours and community uses that would appear in the Spotlight. The consultation will be forwarded to members of the group for comment prior to publication. Decisions on the opening hours would be made after the conclusion of the consultation and individual members with concerns were encouraged to respond to it. Following the conclusion of the meeting discussions had been held with regards to the locking of the gates by the Parish Council when there had been the threat of an incursion. The outcome had been that the Borough Council valued the job being done by the Parish Council and the issue had been one of communication. It had been agreed that is the decision to lock the gates was taken by the Parish Council the Borough Council would be informed of the action and the reasons for it. If the gates were locked for any reason by the Borough Council it would inform the Parish Council of its actions and the reasons why.

Cou/164/07-08 Hedge Cutting

A meeting had been held with the previous contractor and a price of £200 had been quoted for undertaking the work this year, it was noted that the costs would rise next year.

Difficulties had been experienced during the previous cut as the ground had been excessively wet. The issue of hedges being cut and layered in the traditional manner was raised and Councillors were reminded that if this were to take place provision would need to be made in the 2008/09 budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor Batty that the contractor be authorised to undertake the hedge cutting for the price of £200 on the condition that this years growth only is removed and that no flailing takes place on the trees between Marina and Stamford Parks..

RESOLVED that Rick Copley be employed to undertake the hedge cutting in the Parish this autumn for the price of £200 and that this years growth only is removed and that no flailing takes place on the trees on the border between Marina and Stamford Parks.

Cou/165/07-08 Highway Concerns in Groby

The Clerk highlighted the issues that had been discussed at the meeting with Highways Officers on 25 September 2007.

- Safety Issues at Leicester Road
- Lena Drive car parking and right turn bollard
- Speed limits on Markfield Road
- Road surface at Field Head
- A46 roundabout – possible funding of traffic lights by the Highways Agency as part of the M1 widening scheme
- Roundabout at Sacheverell Way
- Groby Boundary Signs
- Grassing Cutting and trimming of vegetation
- Bus Stops on Leicester Road
- Parking on Rookery Lane – Highways officers would undertake a survey throughout the village on waiting restrictions as no individual problems had been identified that did not occur elsewhere on estate roads in the Parish.

The report was **NOTED**.

Cou/166/07-08 Groby In Bloom

Councillor Purves presented a report on Groby Parish in Bloom and the Council's responsibility regarding tree work. With regards to Groby in Bloom the report advised the Council of the proposed autumn/winter work of the Groby in Bloom working group and possible budgetary requirements for consideration when preparing the 2008/09 and 2009/10 precepts.

Section 2 of the report drew the Council's attention to the tree work that required consideration in relation to Mineral Line/Cowpen Spinney and Quarry Playing Field.

It was moved by Councillor Batty that the recommendations (a) and (b) be noted and that items covered in Section 2 of the report with regards to tree maintenance would be included within the Tree Maintenance Programme.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note the winter /spring work of Groby Parish in Bloom and the cost implications for consideration when preparing the 2008/09 and 2009/10 precepts;
- (ii) that a Working Group from Groby in Bloom along with the Clerk look at types of signage and approximate costs for consideration/inclusion in the precept for 2008/09;
- (iii) that in relation to tree work a Working Group be appointed along with the Clerk to identify the number of tree saplings that require removal from the Mineral Line/Cowpen Spinney and if the mature trees are within the tree survey. The Clerk to obtain from the County Council an estimate of cost for an updated survey to include this;
- (iv) that the Clerk arrange for the Council's operatives to remove the remaining ivy from the trees and any saplings from the Mineral Line/Cowpen Spinney;
- (v) That a Working Group be appointed to identify the trees by species that require removing, identify prospective sites for the relocation and with the Clerk produce a specification and three quotes for the removal and replanting for consideration in the 2008/09 precept.

Cou/167/07-08 The Klondyke

The Council noted that the Public Inquiry had been cancelled and that the Enforcement Office from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had been informed that the land was to be grassed over and returned to nature.

The Council expressed its continuing concern over the site and it was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor J Smith that the Council should consider submitting a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman and that the Clerk should write to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to follow up the photographs previously sent and express the concerns of the Council requesting comments.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council consider submitting a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman with regard to the handling of the issue by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council;
- (ii) that the Clerk write to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council expressing the continued concerns of the Parish Council requesting comments on them.

Cou/168.07-08 Bradgate Landfill Site

The clerk confirmed that at the meeting on 6 August 2007 Mr Fraser CC had agreed to provide a report on the Landfill Site as Chair of the Liaison Committee. This report had not been received and the Clerk would contact Mr Fraser again.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

Cou/169/07-08 Parish Council Office – Christmas and New Year Opening Arrangements

The Clerk informed the Council of the proposed Christmas and New Year Opening Arrangements in that the office would be closed from Monday 24 December and would reopen on Wednesday 2 January 2008.

RESOLVED to approve the arrangements and that the dates of closure would be posted on the doors of the office and the Council's website.

Cou/170/07-08 Correspondence

17177 – CPRE Annual Subscription Request – That the subscription be renewed subject to review next year.

17180 – Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership – Any member interested in attending should contact the Clerk.

17181 – St Philip and St James Christmas Tree Festival – To participate in the event with Councillors Beck and Emmerson leading on the project.

Cou/171/07-08 Allocation of Agenda Items to Future Meeting Dates

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

Cou/172/07-08 Date of Next Meeting

15 October 2007 as per the previously agreed schedule

Members of the public left the meeting at 10pm and the Council moved into closed session.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

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 1 October 2007

Staffing Matters

The Council received a report on issues concerning the previous clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor Lindsay that the Council should consider further the issues raised.

RESOLVED that the matter would be discussed further at a future meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed
Chairman

Date