

(These minutes are published subject to approval by the Parish Council and to any amendments that will be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting at which they are approved)

Groby Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 21 January 2008 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/270/07-08 Present

Members: Cllr P Batty (Chairman), Cllr J Batty, Cllr Beck, Cllr Cartwright, Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Hodges, Cllr Hollick (arrived at 7.10pm), Cllr Jones, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Marvin, Cllr J Smith, Cllr L Smith and Cllr Stockill.

Cou/271/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Purves and Cllr Yarwood.

With the absence of the Vice Chairman the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Beck as Vice Chairmen for the meeting.

Cou/272/07-08 Declarations of Interest

Prior to the declarations of interest being made the Clerk explained that as part of her CiLCA training she had been given advice with regards to what interests should be declared at Council meetings. Councillors should only declare interests in items on the agenda, or as they arose in meetings, declarations in items that were not featured on the agenda should not be made. Those members of the Council that were also Borough Councillors were required to be specific in their declarations in relation to Borough Council matters and 'blanket' declarations should not be made.

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

Cllr Beck – Personal interest in Bradgate Landfill site as her son works at the site.

Cllr Stockill – Personal interest in Planning and Development Committee minutes in relation to 32 Beaumont Green of which he is the owner.

Cllr Cartwright - Personal Interest as Secretary, Groby Neighbourhood Watch and Committee Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Neighbourhood Watch Association, all items as the Chairman of the Groby Parish Plan Project all items on the Agenda as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and as a member of the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee.

Councillor Cartwright was reminded that he was only required to declare an interest in items that featured on the agenda.

Cllr Marvin – Personal interest in Weekend Bus Services as a bus user.

Councillor Hollick arrived at 7.10pm and the Clerk repeated the advice given at the commencement of the item.

Cou/273/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 7 January 2008 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendments. Councillor J Batty abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

Cou/259/07-08 Matters Arising

Cou/246/07-08 – amend "they were" to "one was"

From the Closed Session Minutes Amend the first paragraph to read 2 Councillor Jones commented that the situation with the Operatives should be brought out into the open. In response it was pointed out that the situation was part of a Best Value review by the Council and to

comment in public would be irresponsible and damaging to the due process that was being followed.”

Cou/260/07-08 Public Participation – Add to the end of the second paragraph “whose responsibility it was to maintain the site.”

Cou/236/07-08 – Budget 2008/09 – insert “finalised” between “the” and “proposed” in the first line. Amend the third sentence of the third paragraph to read “The Council at that meeting had carefully considered its options and voted by a majority of 14 for with 1 against for the option that the Clerk was now presenting for final approval at this meeting.”

RESOLVED that the Closed Session minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendment. Councillor J Batty abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

Scout Lease/Correspondence

Amend the second sentence to read “Councillor Yarwood declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst discussions relating to boundary issues to the Scout site took place.

Cou/274/07-08 Matters Arising

Councillor Hollick highlighted the payment made to Eon for Street Lighting and queried what the payment had been for. Councillor P Batty informed Councillors that it related to a number of heritage lights on Chapel Hill that had not been adopted by Leicestershire County Council. Investigations were taking place as to the status of the lights and the implications for the Parish Council.

Cou/275/07-08 Public Participation

At 7.37pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and adjourned the meeting for a period not exceeding fifteen minutes for a period of Public Participation not exceeding 15 minutes.

The Council **RESOLVED** to bring item 11 Weekend Bus Services – Groby Village Area forward on the agenda to enable members of the public present to speak on the item.

Members of the public raised concerns on the service provided by Arriva during the evenings after 6.30pm. After this time there was no bus service along Ratby Road although Sacheverell Way and the estates in that area were well covered. On a Sunday there was one bus every two hours. As a result of the lack of services the area of the village with the most Senior Citizens was isolated.

A member of the pub asked why no member had declared an interest in open spaces as Quarry Park was on the agenda, why there were no minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting that held been held on 11 January 2008 and what the item Committees and Outside Bodies on the agenda referred to.

The Chairman responded that no declarations had been made as there was no need for any as the Clerk had given advice that only specific declarations should be made and no member lived in close proximity to Quarry Park. The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting would be on the next Council agenda as the meeting had been held after the “cut off” point for this agenda. The item, Committee and Outside Bodies” had been deferred from a Council meeting prior to the recent election to afford all members the opportunity to put themselves forward to fill existing vacancies.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.42pm

Cou/276/07-08 Weekend Bus Services – Groby Village Area

Following the discussion held during Public Participation the Council it was moved by Councillor Marvin and seconded by Councillor J Smith that the Council hold a meeting at the Forest Rise Community Centre in March, that representatives from the County Council and Arriva be invited to attend and that support from

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) hold a meeting of the Parish Council at the Forest Rise Community Centre to which representatives of Leicestershire County Council and Arriva would be invited to attend (the meeting to be held during March to encourage those in the vicinity to attend);

- (ii) write to Stephen Dorrell MP to request support for the provision of bus services for the benefit of the older people of the village.

Cou/277/07-08 Clerks Report

- (i) Village Hall
The Village Hall toilets were to be cleaned on Monday 11 February and all facilities would be closed to users and members of the public from 8am. The floor was also being re-laid and there would be no access until 8am on Tuesday 12 February. Alternative arrangements have been made for staff.
- (ii) Standards Training on the Code of Conduct
The Council was reminded that a session on the Code of Conduct was being held prior to the Borough Council Meeting on 22 January 2008 at 5pm and was open to Councillors to attend. This month Ron Birch, Chairman of the Standards Broad would be discussing the definition of the term “close associate”
- (iii) Ron Simpson – Renewal of Contract
Ron Simpson, the Council’s advisor had asked if the Council could confirm the use of his services for 2008 as he was changing his professional indemnity insurers and had to show evidence of new contract start dates. Confirmation with a renewal date of 1 January 2008 as he was continuing to provide support to the Council in relation to the Best Value Review.
- (iv) CiLCA Course
The Clerk had attended the first part of the CiLCA course and the session had detailed the requirements in relation to agendas and minutes for any Clerk to obtain the qualification. The assessment of portfolios was strict and even one error could result in failure. One item that the assessors would fail a portfolio on is the inclusion of “Matters Arising” on an agenda. Following attendance at the second session the Clerk would prepare a report for Council recommending some changes to the format of the agenda to ensure that submissions for the qualification are correct. As part of this the Clerk also intended to review the Council’s Standing Orders.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerks Report would replace Matters Arising on the agenda for a trial period of three months and that the matter would be reviewed after this period, if any member wished an item to be raised under Clerks Report they should contact the Clerk prior to the meeting.
- (v) Allotment Society
The Clerk had received a letter requesting a reference supporting a grant application to be made by the Society for funding for road improvements. The Clerk had tried to arrange a meeting with the letter writer but due to personal circumstances she has not been available. It was understood that the scheme was similar to that previously proposed by the Allotment Society however there was no previous resolution of the Council to support it. The Clerk informed the Council that she would invite the Society to give a short presentation on the scheme to ensure that the Council was appraised of it. The Council confirmed that this would be appropriate
- (vi) Street Name Plates
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had requested that the Council inform them if there were any street names plates in the Parish that were in need of replacement, repair or cleaning. Councillors to inform the Clerk on any locations.
- (vii) Extraordinary General Meeting
The Clerk stated that she understood that it had been queried whether the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11 January had been convened correctly. The Clerk offered copies of the letter received by the Chairman requesting the meeting, a copy of the summons and the advice given by LRALC to any member who required one.
- (viii) Travellers
The Clerk reported that the County Council had gained a possession order against four caravans on County Council land at The Meridian Business Park and an eviction was due imminently. In the light of this the gates to Parish Council land would remain locked, the Council supported this stance.

Cou/278/07-08 Planning and Development Committee – 19 January 2008

Councillor Cartwright declared a personal interest in this item as a member of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee and left the room during its consideration.

Councillor P Batty presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2008.

- a. **07/01451/FUL - 42 Sycamore Grove**
No objections subject to neighbours being consulted.
- b. **07/01462/CONDIT - 1 Newtown Linford Lane**
Object, any increase in hours would impact negatively on neighbours, the café would attract gathering of youths/antisocial behaviour and cause extra nuisance to neighbours. This application seeks to regularise breaches of conditions attached to the earlier consent. The statement in support of the application refers to “minor internal adjustments”. A reduction of the café seating area from 38sq m to 18.5sq m is hardly “minor” and does not seem consistent with a viable bone fide café business on the basis described in the statement and it has been questioned whether adequate toilet facilities are being provided for the use of premises as a café. Residents firmly believe that this is just another ploy by the applicant to achieve his real objective of opening an Indian Takeaway.
- c. **07/01455/FUL - Former Old Hall Farm Site, Newtown Linford Lane**
No objection but would ask that “cut & fill” is used, in conjunction with an agreed landscaping scheme as much as possible to set the development into the land contours in conjunction with a final approved colour scheme to minimise any visual impact on the landscape. A condition should be attached to any consent to ensure that the existing public footpath is kept clear and maintained in a clean condition during and following construction works.
- d. **07/01376/FUL - Former Old Hall Farm Site, Newtown Linford Lane**
No objection but concerns have been raised that as this an area with some historic and ecological value, that ecology and archaeology surveys should be carried out in the vicinity of this wet meadow area. Possibly rare amphibious wild life species have been reported in the vicinity of this proposal.

The Council requested that in respect of items c. and d. it should be brought to the Borough Councils attention that the site was on the old farm land of The Old Hall.

Planning Permission Granted

07/01139/FUL - 32 Beaumont Green

Correspondence

Leicestershire County Council – The Future of Charnwood Forest – Sub-group questionnaire – The document was available in Council Chamber, any comments should be submitted to the Clerk.

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/279/07-08

Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Lindsay that the payment of accounts schedule as shown below be approved.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i> £
BT plc	Internet services	105.71
Henson Bros	Truck Service & parts	374.83
Cash	Petty Cash	150.00
Thrust/Gulf Account cards	Fuel	112.87
Green Wave Technology Ltd	Website hosting fee - Annual renewal	235.00
R Simpson	Work undertaken in connection with best value review	180.00
Y B Sherratt	Office Cleaning	9.00

Y B Sherratt	Office Cleaning	9.00
		£1,167.41

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

Councillor Cartwright raised the issue of the Website Hosting Fee and it was **AGREED** that alternative arrangements be investigated for 2009.

Cou/280/07-08 Quarry Park Proposals

The Chairman highlighted that the swimming club had now intimated that it wished to proceed with the Quarry Field as its preferred location for the site of a swimming pool.

It was suggested that a Liaison Committee should be formed to meet with the Club and also to talk to other interested stakeholders with regard to the future development of Quarry Park, this would include current stakeholders such as the Scouts and other parties that may wish to be involved in the project.

After it was proposed by Councillor J Smith and seconded by Councillor L Smith it was **RESOLVED** that a Liaison Committee be formed to talk to the swimming club and any other interested parties.

The membership of the Liaison Committee to be as follows:

Member	Proposer	Secunder
Councillor Hollick	Councillor Beck	Councillor P Batty
Councillor Stockill	Councillor Jones	Councillor Lindsay
Councillor J Smith	Councillor Lindsay	Councillor J Batty
Councillor L Smith	Councillor J Smith	Councillor Hollick
Councillor Marvin	Councillor P Batty	Councillor J Hodges

Cou/281/07-08 Bradgate Landfill Site

The Chairman reported that Stephen Dorrell MP was still involved in the issue and had forwarded a letter from Leicestershire County Council concerning the status of the landfill site to him.

WRG the owner and operator of the site had an extant planning permission to tip waste within the landfill and this had expired on 31 December 2007. Notwithstanding this the Environment Agency had restricted the tipping at the site due to ongoing environmental concerns and this had reduced greatly the capacity of the landfill. Due to the restriction WRG had closed the site in September 2007 and were in the process of permanently capping part of the site and placing a temporary cap on the remainder. WRG were hoping to overcome the concerns of the Environment Agency in the near future and would seek to re-open the landfill at this time, tipping on the area with the temporary cap. However before this could recommence the operator would need to submit a formal planning application which would be determined on its merits in line with the development plan and after consultation with the local community.

Councillors were asked to pass on any concerns to the Clerk who would forward them to members of the Landfill Liaison Group who would provide an update on the latest to Council after the meeting.

Cou/282/07-08 Correspondence

17298 – Councillor P Batty - This item had been included in the discussion on the Quarry Park Proposals (minute number Cou/278/07-08)

17308 – St Philip & St James Church – Councillors Beck and Emmerson were thanked for their hard work in participating in the Christmas Tree Festival

17313 – Leicestershire and Rutland Funding Fair – Councillors Lindsay and J Batty volunteered to attend the event and the Council **AGREED** that the Allotment Society should be made aware of the event.

Cou/283/07-08 Committees and Outside Bodies

The Council at its meeting on 5 November 2007 agreed not to fill a number of vacancies until the local elections had been held to ensure that the vacancies were open to all members of the Council.

The following appointments were made:

Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Jones

Groby Pool Car Park and Nature Reserve Subcommittee – Councillor Lindsay

Grants Committee – Councillors J Batty, Lindsay and Smith

Parish Plan Project – That copies of the Plan would be redistributed to members for them to identify the sections that the Parish Council could undertake for the matter to be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Cou/284/07-08 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4 February 2008 as per the previously agreed schedule.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date