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Groby Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 7 January 2008 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/255/07-08 Present

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

Cou/256/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Batty.

Cou/257/07-08 Declarations of Interest

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

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 Yarwood – Personal Item in the Scout Lease/Correspondence as a neighbour

Cou/258/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2007 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendments. Councillor Emmerson abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

Cou/245/07-08 – Note apologies from Councillor Emmerson.

Cou/249/07-08 – Public Participation.

- Amend paragraph 2 to read “ The view expressed by those members of the public present
- Amend paragraph 3 to read “Concerns were expressed that of the development went ahead the Council would be committed to maintaining a facility not in Groby
- Amend **RESOLVED** to read “to appoint Councillor Stockill as the Council’s representative to the Groby and Ratby Executive Skatepark Committee to act purely as an observer and not as a member of the Committee and report back to the Council..”

Cou/250/07-08 - Clerks Report

- (i) Empty Homes Strategy – Amend “two” to “three”
- (ii) Trees on Markfield Road – add at the conclusion of **RESOLVED** (b) “and therefore the responsibility fell to them.”
- (iii) Report from the Working Group on Lady Jane Grey School Vandalism – Line one amend “has” to “had” and add at the conclusion of the paragraph “at which point it would be reduced.”

Cou/252/07-08 – Payment of Accounts

Amend second line of **RESOLVED** to read “Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Jones did not support the payment to Hunter Tree Care on the basis that it was their belief that all the works that were originally quoted for had not been carried out and that the invoice was for the same amount as the quotation. However other members were of the opinion that additional safety works that were identified and not

charged for more than balanced out the cost.”

RESOLVED that the Closed Session minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2007 be accepted and signed as true record. Councillor Emmerson abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

Cou/259/07-08 Matters Arising

Cou/246/07-08 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor P Batty asked Councillor Hollick about his interests that were listed on the website and it was noted that they were out of date.

Cou/250/07-08 – Opening of Cemetery Gates

Councillor Jones expressed concern that the cemetery gates had not been open on Christmas day. Councillor P Batty reminded the Council of the debate that had taken place at the previous meeting and the resolution that had been passed by all members of the Council to open the gates on the 24 and 27 December 2007.

Cou/250/07-08 (vi) – Druck Lease

The Clerk informed that Council that she and the Chairman had signed the lease before Christmas and that it had been returned to the Council’s Solicitors on 21 December 2007. The latest position was that Drucks’ Solicitor was awaiting the return of their signed documents which had been sent abroad to be signed and completion was expected to take place later in the week. As soon as completion had taken place the Clerk would arrange for the fencing of the new car park to be undertaken. It was likely to be 5-6 months before the new Druck car park would be useable.

From the Closed Session Minutes

Councillor Jones commented that the situation with the Operatives should be brought out into the open. In response it was commented that the situation was part of a review by the Council and to comment in public would be irresponsible and damaging to the process that was being followed.

Councillor P Batty reminded the Council of Standing Order 73 in relation to Confidential Business:

- “1) No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the committee or the sub-committee as the case may be.
2) Any member in breach of the provisions of paragraph(1) of this Standing Order shall be removed from any committee or sub-committee of the Council by the Council.”

He also informed the meeting that no redundancy notices had been issued and that the advice obtained by the Best Value Review Working Group earlier that day was that proper due process must be followed and part of that process was that confidential information could not be revealed.

Cou/260/07-08 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.

Members of the public raised questions in relation to the operatives and the implications of the Best Value Review on them. Councillor P Batty, although the item was not on the agenda, informed the public and Councillors that the review had been undertaken to ensure that public money was used cost effectively. Councillor Hodges stated that although the Council would like to give as much detail as possible it would be improper to do so at the present time and information would be given out when it was correct to do so.

A member of the public stated that he believed that the Council was in breach of its Standing Orders in relation to the number of quotations it would be seeking for health and safety work on the site leased by the Scouts. Councillor Batty responded that the matter was not an issue as the quotation would not involve expenditure by the Council as the quotation was merely to provide guidance for the tenant.

It was asked why the Council’s Operatives did not undertake tree works, Councillor P Batty responded that as the Operatives were not trained in tree removal there would be health and safety issues if they were to undertake such or similar works.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.51pm

Cou/261/07-08 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 apart from the payment to Hacker Young which would be discussed later in the meeting.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Land Registry	Registry enquiry	6.00
The Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Membership	161.00
Various	December salaries	4752.59
HM Revenue & Customs Only	Tax & National Ins	1916.27
HBBC	Office & Cemetery Rates	256.00
Hacker Young	Annual audit fee and additional costs	1439.38
Severn Trent Water	Cemetery & Allotments water bills	100.57
Supplies Team	Fax ink cartridge	28.62
ESPO	Stationery, Parks consumables & Dog Waste bins	517.40
Konica Minolta	Photocopies	18.07
MAP Waste	Collection x 3	33.31
E-on	Street lighting	27.24
Mike B's Security Locksmith Ltd	Padlock & keys	19.15
		£9,275.60

Cou/262/07-08 Planning and Development Committee – 15 December 2007

Councillor Purves, Chair of the Planning and Development Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2008.

- a. **07/01405/FUL -3 Quorndon Rise**
No Objection subject to parking spaces being available and neighbours being consulted.
- b. **07/01414/FUL - 5 White House Close**
No objection subject to neighbours being consulted.
- c. **07/01370/FUL - 30 Carmen Grove**
Objection as members believe that this retrospective application does not comply with the supplementary guidelines regarding overlooking neighbours.
- d. **07/01435/TPO - 9 Spinney Close**
No Objection following a joint site visit by members of the Planning and Development Committee with H&BBC Officers in December.

Planning Permission Granted

0707/01225/FUL - 30 Beaumont Green, Groby At this meeting it was thought that amended plans had not been submitted to this Council. However the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee

15th December show that amended plans were received and members objected to them as it was felt to be overdevelopment and not meeting the street scene.

07/01375/GDO - Notification of intent to erect an agricultural building general permitted development order 1995, schedule 2 part 6. Newtown Linford Lane. This is a letter of from H&BBC Head of Culture and Development confirming that prior approval of the proposed development is not required. It states “ From a recent visit to the site I am able to confirm that the proposed siting, design and external appearance of the proposed ponds are considered to be satisfactory insofar as they are well related to other buildings adjacent and are sufficiently screened from public view so as not to appear unduly prominent”.

RESOLVED having been proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Hollick 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/263/07-08 Budget 2008/09

The Clerk presented the proposed budget for 2008/09. The figures contained one additional item of expenditure that had been added following the meeting on 17 December 2007 – an amount of £160 for Alarm System Maintenance.

The precept amount was 8% less than in 2007/08 and in relation to Band D properties there was a reduction of 8.4%. In real terms if last years precept had been increased by the rate of inflation the proposed precept of £163,129 gave a saving of 12.3%.

The Chairman pointed out that at its meeting on 17 December 2007 the Council had been presented with two options. Retaining the status quo would have required an increase of 35% on the previous years' precept. The Council at that meeting had considered its options and voted by a majority of 14 for with 1 against for the option that the Clerk was presenting at this meeting.

The Council also needed to agree the increase for the Allotment rents as the agreement with the Allotment Society had been checked and the Council had retained its responsibility for rent setting, the Clerk proposed a rise in line with the rate of inflation of 4.3% which would result in an increase on 50 pence on the average rent of £11.50.

It had also come to light whilst initial preparations were being made on the 2008/09 precept leaflet that the incorrect figures had been included for the past two financial years. The Net Operating Costs had been included rather than the Net Expenditure. This had not affected the Council's budget or finances in anyway and was purely an administrative error in the preparation of the leaflet. The figures for 2007/08 would be corrected in this years leaflet. Also the leaflet would contain the Council's proposal that there would not be a rise in the Parish Precept until 2011/2012 subject to there being no unforeseen circumstances or expenses.

It was proposed by Cllr Stockill and seconded by Cllr Hodges that the budget and precept of £163129 be approved.

RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2008/09 and the precept amount of £163,129 by 9 votes for with 4 against and 1 abstention. Councillors Cartwright, Emmerson, Jones and Hollick voted against the proposal. Councillor Beck abstained from the vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor J Smith that the allotment rents be raised by the rate of inflation, 4.3%.

RESOLVED to approve an increase in Allotment rents of 4.3% by 11 votes for with 4 abstentions (Councillors Stockill, Jones, Emmerson and Beck).

Following the vote on the above item the Chairman sought the Council's view on the whether the item relating to correspondence from Hacker Young should be considered in closed session.

It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Hollick that the item should be considered in open session. The motion was put and lost 5 votes for with 9 against.

It was moved by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the item should be considered in closed session. The motion was put and won 9 votes for with 5 against.

Cou/264/07-08 Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman reported that he had received a request for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council from the Chairman of the Staffing Committee, Councillor L Smith and this had been supported by Councillor Lindsay.

The Council requested further details on the need for the meeting and as this would involve the divulgence of personal details the Council was required to move into closed session.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 21 January 2008 as per the previously agreed schedule subject to the arrangement of an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm and the Council moved into closed session and then adjourned for a five minute comfort break reconvening at 8.35pm.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Closed Session of the meeting held on 7 January 2008

Date of Extraordinary General Meeting

After a lengthy discussion the Council agreed that the date of the Extraordinary General Meeting was set for Friday 11 January 2008. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss a staffing matter. Councillor Jones requested that the agenda for the meeting should state that the debate would take place in closed session to avoid members of the public attending the meeting and then being asked to leave as soon as the item was reached. The Chairman agreed stating that the resolution to discuss the item in closed session would have to be taken at the meeting to which Councillor Jones concurred.

The Clerk left the room during the discussion of this item.

Correspondence From Hacker Young

The Council noted the contents of the letter from Hacker Young and agreed to pay the Annual Audit Fee of £1028.13 and instructed the Clerk to seek a breakdown of the additional fee charged.

Scout Lease/Correspondence

The Council **RESOLVED** not to transfer the lease to The Scout Association Trust Corporation and that it should only be transferred to local representatives and to hold a meeting with the Scouts.

Councillor Yarwood declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst discussions took place in relation to the Fencing Covenant at Woodland Heights.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed
Chairman

Date