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**WOODHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Trustee for the King George's Field, Woodhouse Eaves [Charity No. 1087237]*

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 at 18:45**

Present:

Mr P Ince, Chair  
Mr P Searancke, Vice Chair  
Mrs L Greenhalgh  
Mr S McDonald  
Mr C Bennett  
Mr M Greenhalgh  
Mr R Thomas  
Mrs T Woods  
Mr D Shiels

In attendance:

Mrs E Crowe, Clerk to the Council  
Mr A Gardiner, Facilities Officer  
Mrs E Rowley, RFO

7 Members of the public

**24/103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Environmental Warden

**24/104 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY & PERSONAL INTERESTS & ANY DISPENSATIONS**

None this month.

**24/105 POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MATTERS**

PCSO Martin sent in a report to inform us that there has been 1 vehicle crime theft of tools from a van during November.

**24/106 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

See appendix 1

**24/107 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

See appendix 2

**24/108 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- [a] A representative from East Midlands Ambulance Service who run CPR and defibrillator courses to community groups free of charge requested if they could hire the hall free of charge. The Clerk to send them a grant application form to complete for the Parish Council to approve.
- [b] A Parishioner requested for a small upgrade to the PA system in the village hall by purchasing a couple of speakers and an upgrade to the handheld microphones. The Parishioner to present the Parish Council with some indicative costs.
- [c] A parishioner mentioned that the Christmas tree installed by the Parish Council on Tucket Green looks super.

**24/109 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

The Minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**24/110 ENVIROMENTAL WARDEN REPORT**

No report this month

**24/111 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:**

[a] To note payment of the following accounts for previously approved or delegated expenditure:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| DCK Payroll Solutions – monthly charge  | 31.20  |
| NEST pensions – monthly   | 48.56  |
| KGV Charity – Monthly PC Office Rent  | 640.00 |
| Dusters Cleaners – cleaning of public toilets – 4 days per week @ £17/hr = £68 per week | 340.00 |

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|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| PD Solutions – personnel consultancy – monthly charge                               | 100.00           |
| Royal British Legion – Two Poppy Wreaths  | 55.00            |
| HP instant ink – monthly charge   | 18.49            |
| Waterplus – water supply for public toilets   | 111.20           |
| Royal British Legion – 10 lamppost poppies  | 30.00            |
| Shepshed Lions Community First Responders – replaced Woodhouse defib battery & pads | 313.10           |
| Workplace Stuff - Salt spreader for snow warden                                     | 224.00           |
| Amazon - High Vis Vests for Remembrance Sunday                                      | 10.91            |
| Co-op - Milk & Biscuits for Remembrance Sunday                                      | 11.03            |
| Amazon – Tea bags & Paper cups  | 16.30            |
| PKD Charity – Christmas cards   | 21.95            |
| Chris Bennett – Christmas tree lights   | 33.98            |
| Target Hygiene – public toilets bin servicing                                       | 18.90            |
| Equals Card – funds top-up  | 600.00           |
| Annual McAfee anti-virus protection subscription for Clerk                          | 79.99            |
| Unity Trust Bank – monthly account charges for 20240219                             | 3.60             |
| Salaries  | 1518.48          |
| <b>Funds transfer from WPC to KGV Charity – November</b>                            | <b>11,000.00</b> |

[b] To approve Financial reports:

- The monthly bank reconciliation at 22 November
- The monthly reconciliation of accounts at 22 November

[c] To note Council income for November = £0

[d] To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

- To consider the Council Wish List
- To consider and approve the draft budget for 2025/26
- To consider and approve to raise the level of Precept for 2025/26 by 4.8% (annualised CPI) figure. The Precept will rise to £102,507.00 for 2025/26. This means an average band D household will pay £101.98, a rise of £4.67 from last year.
- To consider and approve adopting the new financial regulations.  
To consider and approve adopting the new financial risk assessment.

## 24/112 VILLAGE MATTERS

### **RESOLVED**

[a] The Councillors discussed about supporting the Charnwood Forest Geopark in getting some signage up around the Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. The Councillors agreed to the principal of this project but would like to see more details on the Gabion Tower design before a decision is made. The Councillors to think of where the tower could be situated and discuss at February's meeting.

[b] The Councillors discussed the response from LCC regarding the most appropriate solutions for traffic calming in Woodhouse. Cllr Taylor informed the Parish Council that they will need to raise the money for any traffic calming solutions they would like to install, as LCC do not have the available funds. Cllr McDonald reported that a VAS sign would be only viable solution according to LCC's guidelines. The Clerk to obtain three quotes for a VAS sign.

[c] The Councillors agreed for the Clerk to apply for a grant fund from Locality for the costs of YourLocale to assist with the formal review of the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk to action.

[d] The Councillors agreed to the Chairman approving a statement from Charnwood Borough Council regarding an amendment to the boundary at Grange Park which will no longer be in the Parish from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The Councillors resolved to agree to the parish boundary being amended.

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## **24/113 CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

### **RESOLVED**

To note the correspondence received:

- [a] A Parishioner asked if groups have permission to hold events to give advance warning to villagers? I.e. 'Endurance Sport' held an event at 'cow field' above the small car park of Beacon Hill. Also 40+ horses for the hunt were riding up Tucket Road & along Bird Hill Road. Charnwood BC informed us that permission is not required for the Hunt or the Endurance Sport.
- [b] Charnwood Borough Council have requested for Councillors to check their Register of Member's Interests forms to see if there have been any changes and inform Charnwood direct.
- [c] A Parishioner raised the issue on the yellow lines on Maplewell Road. The Chairman is speaking to LCC regarding the issue.
- [d] A Parishioner reported that the land on Briscoe Lane near Maytree Lane, the trees are in need of cutting, when it windy branches and twigs are repeatedly falling off, the trees not only hang over the road but over the foot path and the grass verge. The Clerk has been in contact with MOD Garat's Hay.
- [e] A Parishioner questioned the approach of one of the councillors when questioning the military about our new neighbours at MOD Garat's Hay during Novembers Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk & Chairman have corresponded with the parishioner.
- [f] A Parishioner asked for some clarification about the discussion related to our EP friends at Garat's Hay MOD from what was said at the November 2024. The Clerk & Chairman have corresponded with the parishioner.
- [g] A Parishioner confirmed that a tree has been planted on Tuckett Green as a commemorative of the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- [h] Highways have confirmed that works have been completed on the non-illuminated sign at Forest Road.
- [i] The Home Bank Headquarters for Operation LAZURITE following the questions from the Council meeting have offered to come and update and brief the Council in more detail Mid Jan.
- [j] Tarmac LCF have confirmed receiving the grant application.
- [k] A Parishioner emailed their thanks for how the Vice Chairman conducted the conversation with the personnel at Garats Hay at the November Parish Council meeting.

## **24/114 PLANNING MATTERS**

### **RESOLVED**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| P/24/1866/2 | Certificate of Lawful Development (existing) for use of the property as a Children's Day Nursery for up to 70 children at 16 Church Hill, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, LE12 8RT<br>The Clerk has written to CBC.   |
| P/24/1972/2 | Erection of first floor side extension at 19 Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Leics. LE12 8RG<br>No comment.   |
| P/24/0258/2 | Installation of track and use of existing vehicular access point and the track for access to existing dwellinghouse with associated works (Retrospective) at Brand Hill House, Brand Hill, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, LE12 8SX<br>Charnwood Borough Council have objected. |

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P/24/1997/2

T1 Beech Works: Crown reduced by 25% approximately 2m from tips. Raise canopy over road to clear lamp splay at The Coach House, 48 Brand Hill, Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8SS  
No comment.

**24/115 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**RESOLVED**

None this month

**24/116 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

None this month

**24/117 CLOSED SESSION** – members of the public and press and staff were asked to leave.

**STAFFING**

**RESOLVED**

[a] To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Staffing Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Meeting closed at 20:00hrs

CHAIR

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## **Appendix 1 - Report from David Snartt - Borough Councillor Forest Bradgate**

### **Planning Application Maplewell Road.**

I have detailed my objections to the public consultation at Charnwood Borough Council to planning application P/24/1605/2. This is a proposal for 15 dwellings on land adjacent to Maplewell Road, and is the reserved matters application after the Inspector granted outline planning permission for this site.

The applicant has also put in another application for the full 36 dwellings P/24/1673/2, which again I have 'called in' to be determined by a planning committee at Charnwood Borough Council. I have several concerns with this proposal, these include the impact this would have on the street scene, with nearly half of the dwellings along the frontage of Maplewell Road, giving a more suburban feature than the one that was put before the Inspector when deciding the appeal. In my view, this makes this proposal incongruous with the surrounding adjacent area. Therefore, out of step with Local Plan policy, which sets out to support and protect the character of landscape and countryside, requiring new development to maintain the separate identities of towns and villages.

Other concerns include, the housing mix, like the previous application, this application does not meet the preferred mix of new housing. In my view, not reflecting the identified needs of the Borough and the policy outlined in the Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan, which states, support will be given to 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms and homes suitable for older people and those with restricted mobility. Four plus bedroom units may be included in the mix of dwellings, but will be expected to comprise a minority on any single development. Clearly this proposal does not comply with current policies. I also made reference to the Design and Access Statement, I believe clarification is needed about the proposed access gradient, this seems to differ from the condition placed by the Inspector.

I welcome the proposed construction traffic route away from the village, but I am not sure how this will be enforced. My full submission can be viewed on the Council's website under the planning number P/24/1673/2. I will keep you informed as these two applications proceed through the planning cycle.

### **Brand Hill House Planning Application. P/24/0258/2.**

This retrospective planning application was for the installation of track and use of existing vehicular access point and the track for access to existing dwelling house with associated works.

This planning application has now been refused by Charnwood Borough Council. Included in the reasons for refusal it is stated: The application proposes to the development and encroachment of a residential use in the countryside that conflicts with policies CS11 and CS12 of the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2015 and save policies CT/1 and CT/2 of the Local Plan which seeks to restrict development in the countryside unless specific circumstances apply. Full details of the refusal notice can be viewed on the Council's website. An enforcement notice has also been raised by the Council.

### **Local Plan.**

I am concerned to learn that the draft Local Plan 2021/37 has been delayed again after receiving the latest information from the Inspectors. This has now been put back to adopt the Plan to September 2025. After completing the main modifications as part of the examination, in a letter to the Council the Inspectors gave three options to proceed, with a Community infrastructure Levy (CIL), the plan is withdrawn from the examination or the Inspectors proceed to write their final report on the basis of the submitted plan.

The recommendation from officers to the Cabinet meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December is that the Council prepare a CIL. This is to deliver the transport strategies and potentially other infrastructure. I note the Inspectors state: The Council should be aware that this would be likely to include further consultation, a hearing if necessary and consultation on further main modifications. The Inspectors also state: In the circumstances of the submitted plan the evidence to support CIL should ideally have been at least partly developed alongside the Plan so that the effects on the deliverability of sites across different market areas in the Borough could have been assessed and scrutinised as part of the examination.

I will be asking questions about this delay at the Cabinet meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. In my view, this is not a good outcome for communities within Charnwood, especially understanding the impact this will have on speculative planning applications over this extended period without the Plan being adopted.

### **Council Careers.**

People are encouraged to 'Make a Difference' a new campaign launched to attract people to Council careers, making a difference in their communities by embarking on a rewarding career with their local Council. This new

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national campaign aims to inspire individuals to explore career opportunities that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of local residents.

Local Councils like Charnwood Borough Council provide essential services that residents rely on every day. At Charnwood, our services include operating leisure centres, managing open spaces, planning, environmental health, licensing, economic regeneration, markets and events and don't forget emptying those bins. The campaign highlights the wide range of roles available across all Council services, welcoming people from all backgrounds and skill levels who are looking to begin a new role in local government. Anyone interested in discovering how they can contribute to the future of their community by working for their local Council and finding out more about the campaign can visit the dedicated campaign website [www.localcounciljobs.gov.uk](http://www.localcounciljobs.gov.uk).

### **Celebrating International Repair Day.**

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October thousands of groups around the world held repair cafes to promote and champion repair and reuse. Woodhouse Eaves Plastic Free joined in and held another very successful repair café event with 72 items coming through the door. From Disney singing toasters to 77 year old dolls, African duck ornaments and several pairs of secateurs and shears. The volunteers worked all morning to achieve a fix rate of 82%, the best ever result.

I attend along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood. We were all really impressed with the achievements of the repairers. The Mayor brought with her a pair of electronic flashing dog collars which had stopped working. They had stopped working when the battery was changed. The fantastic electronics repairer Nick, managed to fix both collars saving them from being thrown in landfill. Sadly, the singing toaster could not be made to sing again, but it does at least now toast!

I am grateful to Gemma Andrews and all the volunteers who make this event such a success. I congratulate all involved with the repair café event, bringing this important work of repair and reuse to local people. For dates of future events please follow @wheplasticfree or see the website [www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/repair-cafe](http://www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/repair-cafe). The morning was photographed by Dawn Taylor from DLT Visions.

### **Woodhouse Eaves Art Group.**

I attended the Woodhouse Eaves Art Group's annual art exhibition at the Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. The group had a very successful weekend with 270 visitors over the two days. It was so pleasing to see the work of local artists on display, reflecting a very high quality of artistic skill and with paintings on different types of subjects. I was particularly pleased to see many local landscape paintings on display.

Paul Goodman, who invited me to the exhibition said 'the Art Group is a friendly and helpful group that has been running for 26 years, encouraging people of all abilities and its non-competitive. There are spaces available in the afternoon sessions and we welcome anyone who would like to join us to try it out, there is help and support available from a tutor. It is just £6.00p for a two hour session and bring your own materials'. If you're interested please contact Paul at [paulandgill@talktalk.net](mailto:paulandgill@talktalk.net).

### **Service Returns to Council.**

Charnwood Borough Council has successfully brought its revenues and benefits service back in-house to help make significant savings in the coming years. The service has been delivered by an external provider for around 15 years, but following a procurement exercise the Council opted to run the service itself.

Over the last 12 months, the Council has put in place new systems and processes to create the new in-house service which went live on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The revenues and benefits service deals with the collection and billing for council tax and business rates, housing benefits claims and managing council tax support, discretionary housing and council tax payments.

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## **Appendix 2 - Report from Deborah Taylor – County Councillor**

### **Budget**

At the council, we have been doing a lot of work since the budget was announced on 30th October 2025. However, it wasn't a great budget for local authorities. This is because the National Insurance increase will cost the county council about £5m per annum and the rise in the National Minimum wage will increase our direct staff costs by approximately £8m per annum. This extra cost is on top of the underfunding we have been enduring for many years, due to an outdated funding formula being used by the government.

It was also disappointing news for the many contractors and partners that we work with. They will also be impacted by the increases announced in the budget and their increased costs are likely to be passed onto the council too.

At this point, we are awaiting our government settlement to understand what our budget constraints will be. This settlement is likely to be just before Christmas so in the New Year we will begin setting our budget for 2025/26.

The additional money announced by the Government last week is unlikely to make any difference to our finances. The £600m Recovery Fund is being targeted to areas of high deprivation and the £680m for social care is likely to just cover the increased costs to our providers from the NI increases.

I have spoken to many residents who have lost their winter fuel allowance, and they are very concerned about their ability to heat their homes this winter. I have been supporting residents to get the help they need, and I am encouraging everyone who may be eligible for Pension Credit to seek support to submit an application. I have also been speaking to small business owners and charities that have been hit with the National Insurance increase and unfortunately this could well mean local job losses and less money to fund frontline services for many residents who rely on this support.

If anyone is struggling, please reach out to me and I will do everything in my power to help and support you.

### **Beaumanor Hall**

I was delighted to hear that Beaumanor Hall's (Woodhouse) educational school activity programme has been honoured for the 14th year in a row. Many Leicestershire school children over the years have enjoyed the council-run Beaumanor Hall array of learning experiences from foundation stage up to post-16. The venue is marking its 50th year of hosting young people from across Leicestershire and other parts of the country and has again been given the 'Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge' – the only nationally recognised scheme that highlights the quality of learning for all types of learning outside the classroom. Their nationally recognised activities include their 'day in the life of a Viking' experience, their iconic 'Victorian Day' and team building days that can incorporate their seven-metre-high climbing wall and high ropes course.

Beaumanor's 'World War II' experience is also a highlight for many schools, drawing heavily from the hall's rich history to enhance the children's experience. During World War II, Beaumanor Hall was instrumental in the effort to break the German Enigma code, acting as a 'Y' (or listening) station for Bletchley Park.

The LOtC Quality Badge is endorsed by the Department of Education and schools are encouraged to choose a badge holder when booking trips and activities for pupils.

### **Free Holiday Clubs**

Leicestershire "Holidays Together" sessions are available again over the Christmas school break for families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Sessions are held at venues across the county by schools, voluntary and community organisations, childcare providers, and sports clubs. They will include festive fun and activities such as games, arts and crafts, sports, dance, music, and trips, alongside a nutritious meal. The scheme is part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and is co-ordinated by Leicestershire County Council thanks to funding from the Department for Education. Parents and carers of eligible children will receive an e-voucher by text or email.

You can also visit Leicestershire County Council HAF webpage or the Active Together website to view what activities will be on offer and how to book places.

### **Household Support Fund**

We are offering further support for Leicestershire residents and doing everything we can to support families as cost of living rises continue to bite.

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As we head into winter and colder weather, there are funds, programmes, and services to help you and your family get through this difficult time. The Household Support Fund is provided by the Government to local authorities to support families with children and individuals most in need.

Support available includes food and fuel vouchers. We are also providing food vouchers for children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, funding for food banks and we have also provided Age Concern Leicestershire and Rutland with funding to provide additional resources for them to support pensioners in accessing support for Pension Credit and other related benefits to encourage take up to enable eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payments.

No direct applications will be accepted. A referral must be made on behalf of applicants, from a professional support worker or agency. Further information can be found here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/assessment-and-eligibility-for-care-and-support/household-support-fund> or by scanning this QR code:

### **Quorn Hunt**

A request has been received from the Quorn Hunt for some members to ride across Beacon Hill on 3rd December. I am told that this is an organised ride around the local area, so it will impact more of the parish than just Beacon Hill. They are starting from outside of our land and there will be 20-30 experienced riders on a ride, without trails, scents or dogs.

Hunting is not permitted on county land and we have received confirmation from them that this is not trail hunting, nor are there any dogs, they are simply riding through.

The activity has been licensed, with appropriate risk assessments etc. and the Rangers will control the riders through Beacon Hill.