MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWBOLD VERDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 1989 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE PAVILION, ALANS WAY

PRESENT
H. M. Francks (Chairman), R. Kendall, R. Watson, M. B. Mensley, D. Colledge. M. W. Preston attended for part of the meeting. Joyce Crooks (Borough Councillor), S. Spence, A. Hurst. E. A. Walsh (Clerk)

963. APOLOGIES - Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Goddard, Davison and Casswell, C. C.

964. MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, having been circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

965. ACCOUNTS

Received:

			£
G. Seller & Co. Ltd.			
Interment fees for William Arthur Henson, decd.			15.00
Leicestershire Cooperative Funeral Services Ltd.			
Sale of new grave for George Sherratt, decd.		36.00	
Interment fees		15.00	51.00
		TOTAL	66.00

Paid:

Shaw & Sons Ltd.				
Cemetery Receipt book	6.36			
VAT	95			7.31
Allen Bostock (Builders) Ltd.				
Release of retention monies - Pavilion, Alans Way				1,327.15
E. H. Bell, Caretaker's Wages				
3.9. - 1.10.89 - 4 weeks at £20 per week				80.00
E. A. Walsh, Salary (September)		145.83		
Typing expenses		20.00		
Postage		1.96		167.79
			TOTAL	1,582.25

966. CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter had been received from the Leicestershire Rural Community Council informing the members that the Best Kept Village Competition 1989 had been won by Cosby Parish Council as far as the large village category was concerned and that the runners-up were Newbold Verdon and Ibstock.

2. A letter had been received from the Technical Services Unit confirming that a replacement maple tree would be planted on the Alans Way Playing Field in the autumn. All that was required was for the members to notify Technical Services of the species they required. A quotation was also given for the clearing of the

brook and ditch at a cost of £778. It was agreed that this matter be placed on the agenda for discussion at the Council's next meeting.

3. A quotation had been received from the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the replacement of the vandalised public seat in Dragon Lane at a cost of £145. The Clerk reported that a formal statement had been given to the Police and that a formal application for compensation in this sum had been submitted to the Clerk of the Magistrates Court. It was agreed that the replacement of this seat would be dealt with as a separate agenda item at the Council's next meeting.

4. A letter had been received from the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Director of Public Services regarding the Paper Bank Scheme and notifying the Council that Newbold Verdon fell into a category which hopefully would be attended to early in the new year. The letter was duly noted.

5. A letter had been received from the Technical Services Unit enclosing a quotation for the cost of mowing the land adjacent to the Cemetery. An initial cut with flail mower would cost £52 and thereafter gang mowing at a frequency of 16 visits per season would cost £7.50 per visit. It was agreed that these costs be included in the Council's precept for the forthcoming financial year.

6. A notice of valuation for rating purposes had been received from the District Valuer's office in respect of the Pavilion, Alans Way notifying the Council of the gross value and the rateable value of the premises. It was agreed that the Borough Council be notified of the Council's wish to claim rate exemption owing to the fact that the building is used purely for sports activities. The Clerk was requested to write an appropriate letter to the Valuation Officer accordingly.

7. A letter had been received from County Councillor Paddy Casswell notifying the Council that he had received a complaint regarding footpath S.16 in the village and that he had made enquiries of the Planning Department at the County Counci. The County Council had informed him that the Highway Authority wished to ensure a minimum width of 1.5m of clear public footpath was available for use by pedestrians and had written to this effect to adjoining owners requesting overgrowth of boundary hedges to be cut back. Mr. Kendall produced a copy letter from one of the adjoining owners confirming his willingnexx to comply with the Council's request. The letters were duly noted.

967. CHURCHYARD LITTER BINS

It was agreed that this item should form an agenda item following concerns at the Council's last meeting when the Clerk reported that litter bins in the churchyard had been overflowing. A request had been made of the Borough Council to ensure that regular collections were made to avoid litter gathering on the site. The Borough Council had indicated that it was the Parish Council's responsibility to arrange for the rubbish to be collected into

one area which could be made accessible to the refuse collectors. The Borough Council confirmed that they would ensure that regular and appropriate collections were made. After some discussion, it was agreed by members that the main problem was a lack of adequate bins. It was generally agreed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase an additional refuse bin. It was also felt that perhaps an area of the churchyard should be slabbed to accommodate the bins and it was agreed that this matter and the question of the churchyard garden of remembrance should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

968. PARISHIONERS' COMPLAINTS

The Clerk read letters of complaint received from a local parishioner which requested confirmation from the Council that it had, or was dealing with the following matters:-

a) the state of the slabs in front of the Swan Inn
b) the untidy state of the the site of the church hall
c) redundant bus stops in Brascote Lane
d) remedial works to the cricket square on Alans Way Playing Field
e) footpath obstructions on Mill Lane
f) dog fouling on playing fields.

The members discussed these points at some length and it was felt that the items in question had been, or currently are, being dealt with by the Council and the Clerk was requested to inform the parishioner accordingly.

The Clerk also reminded members of the letter of complaint received earlier in September concerning the state of the play area at the Dragon Lane Recreation Ground. The members confirmed that a site inspection had been held and the Clerk also reported that thus far no inspection report had been received from Marshall Fry Ltd in respect of the play equipment. A letter had been sent to the company and a reply was awaited. The matter was discussed at some length and the Clerk was requested to obtain quotes for the cost of providing bark over the tarmac area. As an alternative the Clerk was also requested to obtain quotes for the cost of repairs and/or resurfacing of the tarmac and to report these back to the next meeting if at all possible.

969. SECURITY GATES, ALANS WAY

Mr. Mensley reported that a site meeting had been held to consider the feasibility of adequately securing the Alans Way Playing Field site given the problems associated with the boundary hedge adjoining the public footpath. It was generally felt that the hedge could not be made secure and whilst the idea of securing the playing field was thought to be a sound one, it was no longer felt to be viable in the circumstances. It was generally agreed that the main area of concern was the immediate environs of the pavilion. It was accordingly suggested that ornamental railings and a gate securing the porch area of the pavilion would prevent its further abuse as a public urinal and prevent further damage being caused to the door, window and external light. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to obtain quotes for supplying such

railings and, if possible, report back to the next meeting.

970. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

89/1152/4 - Mr. G. E. Alton. Planning application for outline planning permission for the erection of one shop unit on land adjoining 2/4 Arnolds Crescent. The members expressed considerable concern regarding this application and it was pointed out that the level of public parking facilities was already sadly deficient for existing shops and the doctors surgery. Another shop unit would merely exacerbate the problem. Mrs. Crooks advised the meeting that she had recently requested that the adjoining property, i.e. Ivy Cottage, 92 Main Street, should be considered as a listed building and that, as such, the proposed development would be prejudicial to that property. The members also felt that Ivy Cottage was a major part of the architectural heritage of the village and that the proposed development would severely detract from the cottage's appearance and would constitute an increased fire risk in view of its thatched nature. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Director of Development notifying him of the Council's concern and, indeed, objection to the proposed application.

971. PLANNING APPROVALS

89/0871/4 - Mr. and Mrs. J. Haines. Planning permission for a retirement bungalow on land to the rear of 22 Oaks Drive, Newbold Verdon.

972. PLANNING REFUSAL

89/0832/4 - Lioncove Ltd. - Refusal of planning permission to the applicant with respect to three detached houses with double garages on plots 6, 7 and 8 The Paddock, Newbold Verdon.

973. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

1. A parishioner pointed out her concern about the application for the erection of a shop unit on Arnolds Crescent. She pointed out that there are considerable parking difficulties in the village in that area but also in the village generally. The Council were requested to confirm their opposition to the planning application and were also asked whether there was any chance of a public car park being made available within the village. The Chairman confirmed the Council's opposition to the application but pointed out that there was no land available for use as a car park and the parking problem was acknowledged as a continuing concern.

974. CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION TIME

1. Mr. Kendal raised the following points:-

a) The ash tree at the rear of the development on Arnolds Crescent was endangered and he asked whether there was any planning condition which would give the existing trees some protection as far as the development was concerned. The Clerk

pointed out that no formal notice of planning approval had been received and he was accordingly requested to obtain a copy of the planning permission and seek confirmation from the Director of Development as far as tree preservation was concerned.

b) Whether the previous Council minute in respect of the public bonfire in the village had been found. The Clerk reported that despite considerable searching he had been unsuccessful in locating it. It was resolved that the Clerk should ascertain whether there was a need to locate the previous minute in advance of the Council considering the question and report back to the next meeting accordingly.

c) Why the litter picker was still operating in the village. The Clerk replied that the Borough Council had notified the Parish that as his employer they were ascertaining whether or not he fulfilled the responsibilities requires of him as a litter picker and only the Borough Council as his employer would dismiss him if they felt it necessary to do so given that the Borough Council had resolved that Newbold Verdon required the services of such a litter picker.

d) Whether the Council could arrange to padlock the gates leading on to the Dragon Lane Recreation Ground at the end of Bells Lane. The Clerk was requested to arrange this and to obtain a sufficient quantity of keys to ensure that the Council's contractors and/or members could obtain access as necessary.

e) A tree on the Dragon Lane Recreation Ground had been broken adjacent to the Baptist Chapel. He asked whether anything could be done to replace it. It was agreed that the tree should be left to recover for the time being and Mr. Hurst offered to effect minor tree surgery to facilitate this.

2. Mrs. Spence pointed out that the car park at the Alans Way Playing Field was badly in need of weeding and the Clerk was requested to instruct the Technical Services Unit to arrange for this, if possible.

3. Mrs. Spence also asked on behalf of Mr. Goddard whether the Parish Council would be willing to support the local Post Office's application to the Postmaster General for status as a vehicle licensing centre. The matter was discussed and it was generally felt that a sub-Post Office would not qualify for the status required. It was suggested that the Postmaster should write to the Parish Council formally requesting its support so that the matter could be addressed properly.

4. Mr. Watson reported:-

a) that the pavilion had a broken roof tile and there was considerable rubbish on the roof of the building. He further reported that the stone guard on the car park light had been removed. The Clerk also reported that the porch light on the pavilion was also inoperative. The Clerk was duly authorised to place an order for the necessary repairs to be effected.

b) that the Cricket Club wished to purchase a motorised mower/ roller for the next cricket season and that he was concerned for the security of the implements. The Cricket Club, therefore, requested approval of the Parish Council to the erection of a second hand pre-fabricated concrete garage to replace the existing shed on the Alans Way Playing Field. It was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

c) asked why the centre of the football pitch had not been mown by the Technical Services Unit. Some general concern was then expressed about the quality of the mowing in that the perimeter of the field also required further attention. The Clerk was requested to write to the Technical Services Unit regarding these concerns.

d) pointed out that all the teams currently using the Alans Way Playing facilities used the same football pitch. After some discussion it was agreed that the Newbold Verdon Junior Football Club should not be allowed to use the senior football pitch henceforward. The Clerk was requested to invite the secretaries of the football clubs to a special meeting to enable this matter to be addressed.

5. Mr. Mensley informed the meeting of a complaint received from a resident of Jubilee Road that dog fouling notices were missing. The Clerk advised that this matter had been reported to the Borough Council who had informed him that the Dog Warden, an officer of the Environmental Health Department would be attending to this.

6. Mr. Mensley reported that the hedge along Barlestone Road between Mill Lane and Dragon Lane was considerably overgrown and littered with rubbish. The Clerk was requested to write to the Divisional Highways Surveyor regarding this.

7. Mr. Mensley reported that the street light opposite Kingdom Hall on Mill Lane was inoperative and the Clerk was requested to contact the street lighting Department at County Hall accordingly.

8. Mr. Mensley reported that he had attended the meeting of the Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 13th September and that he would report details of the meeting to the Council's next meeting.

9. Mr. Preston reported that an offer had been received of £25 scrap value for the ornamental iron railings and the members were requested to confirm their acceptance of the offer. It was agreed that the offer should be accepted.

10. Mrs. Crooks advised the meeting that the Borough Council's conservation area plan for Newbold Verdon had yet again been revised to include Smiths the Butchers property, Cobb Cottage and also the Baptist Chapel. This was duly noted.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.