MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWBOLD VERDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10th MAY 1993 AT THE PAVILION, NEWBOLD VERDON

PRESENT: M. W. Preston, H. M. Francks, J. R. Watson, S. Spence, D. Colledge, E. Tomblin, M. B. Mensley, G. Law, E. A. Walsh (Clerk)

Parishioners: 7

492. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. M. W. Preston was proposed and seconded as Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year. Mrs. Francks was also proposed but not seconded and the Clerk duly declared Mr. Preston Chairman.

493. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from A. Hurst and P. Chick.

494. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 1993, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

495. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Francks was proposed and seconded as Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations the Chairman declared Mrs. Francks Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

496. ACCOUNTS

Payable

Leicestershire County Council		
Painting materials - A/c 7A355884	19.55	
VAT	3.42	22.97
A/c CS110262 - Replacement typewriter	130.55	
VAT	22.85	153.40
Leics. County Assoc. of Local Councils		
Annual Subscription		178.84
Leics. County Council		
- A/c 7A 360425 - Typewriter ribbons	6.80	
VAT	1.19	7.99
Cornhill Insurance plc - Annual renewal premium		520.42
W.D. & B. Harding & Son	668.25	
VAT	116.96	785.21
E. H. Bell, Caretaker's wages		
5.4.93 - 9.5.93 - 5 wks. at £22		110.00
E. A. Walsh, Salary	266.66	
Expenses	58.33	324.99
Mr. N. Francks - £125		
Mr. T. E. Walsh - £125		250.00
Payment for Dragon Lane play equipment redecoration		
Verdon Saw Mills - Replacement hardwood for play equipment - Dragon Lane		12.10
		£2,365.92

Received

1.	First moeity of precept	13,327.00
2.	Jubilee Inn FC. Pitch Fees	307.00
3.	Newbold Verdon Junior FC - Pitch Fees	32.00
4.	Swan FC - Pitch fees	90.00
5.	Gillivers - Sale of new grave - Ernest Douglas Aves £36. Interment £15.00	51.00
		£13,807.00

497. CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter had been received from the Director of Planning and Transportation at the County Council enclosing a Consultative Draft Document for the County Council's North West Leicestershire Coalfield Priority Area Regeneration Strategy. The Clerk discussed briefly the effects of the coal mining decline so far as it affected employment within the village and it was agreed that the Consultation Draft be circulated among members in order that comments could then be passed to the County Council at the earliest possible opportunity.

2. A letter had been received from the Director of Technical Services at the Borough Council detailing the Council's approval to the Environmental Improvement Programme for Newbold Verdon for the next financial year 1993/4 identifying both the category A and B schemes. These were discussed and noted.

3. A letter had been received from the Leicestershire Rural Community Council requesting donations towards its revenue deficit of £12,000. Members considered this request and it was decided to leave the matter on the table.

4. A letter had been received from the Leicestershire Rural Community Council acknowledging the village's entry to the Best Kept Village Competition for 1993 and advising that preliminary judging would take place in the first two weeks of June.

5. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive's Department inviting two members to the County Service to be held at the Leicester Cathedral on Sunday 23rd May at 10.30 am. It was agreed that anyone interested in attending would contact the Clerk.

6. Formal notice of temporary road closure of the B.585 at Newbold Heath between 10th and 18th May had been received for the purpose of facilitating resurfacing works to the carriageway. This was noted.

7. A letter had been received from the Clerk of the Cadeby Parish Council requesting support from its neighbouring parishes to an objection to the grant of planning permission for the running of a Sunday Market. After some discussion members agreed that this was really a matter of parochial concern.

498. CRICKET CLUB PRACTICE NETS

The Clerk reminded members that a draft planning application with supporting plans had been placed before the Council at its last meeting in support of a proposal for the installation of cricket practice nets on the Alans Way Playing Field. Members had agreed to attend a site meeting in order to consider the matter and the matter would then be further discussed at this meeting. Owing to a poor attendance at the site meeting members agreed that prior to giving formal approval to the site location, another site meeting be arranged for the members. It was proposed and seconded that the Parish Council support the proposal for cricket practice nets but that it may prove necessary to install them at a different location on the playing field from the one proposed. Members agreed to attend a site meeting at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th May 1993 and the matter would be returned to the Council's agenda for the next meeting.

499. PARISH COUNCIL MOWER

The Clerk reminded members that he had been authorised following the meeting on 1st March 1993 to make arrangements for the servicing and sharpening of the Council's mowing machine. This had been collected by mowing servicing agents at Narborough who had recently made an interim report on the condition of the mower to the Clerk. Apparently the mower gear box had seized which made the machine extremely difficult to manoevre. The carburetor was also defective and it required replacement in order to get the machine to run. Parts for the gear box were no longer available and a new gear box was required to be installed which would necessitate modifications to the machine's drive shafts. The mower agent indicated that the provision of a new gear box, carburetor installation and full servicing would cost in the order of £1,000 and requested instruction from the Parish Council on whether it wished him to proceed with the repairs. The mower agent indicated that the carrying out of the repairs would put the mower into A1 condition and that it could not be replaced with a similar mower for anything short of £5,500. The mower agent advised that the nature of the machine was such that the operator could and should not attempt to change gear whilst the machine was in motion and that failure to adhere to this strict requirement would result in further serious damage to any replacement gear box. The operator should therefore be properly trained and use of the machine should be restricted to those likewise properly trained in its operation. After considerable debate members agreed that the repair works should be carried out and that in future the ignition key of the mower would not be left in the ignition. The Clerk agreed to be the responsible person to contact in relation to any grass cutting that was required and in the event that the Clerk was not available to effect the grass cutting he would appoint a properly trained agent on his behalf. Members felt that this regime in terms of usage would minimise the risk of further damage and make those who might be using the machine more aware of their responsibilities to ensure its proper use.

500. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

93/0347/4 - Application for planning permission from Kidderminster Footwear, New Road Complex, Kidderminster, Worcs to alter entrance from main road at 114 Main Street, Newbold Verdon. No comment.

501. PLANNING APPROVALS

93/0261/4 - Newbold Verdon WMC, 107 Main Street, Newbold Verdon. Planning approval for the erection of a porch extension.

93/0180/4 - A. C. Johnson, 44 Arnolds Crescent, Newbold Verdon. Planning approval for an extension.

93/0231/4 - Mr. Measures, 7 Bagworth Road, Newbold Heath. Planning approval for extension.

93/0173/4 - B. Pole, 26 Hornbeam Road, Newbold Verdon. Planning approval for extension.

502. PLANNING REFUSAL

93/0234/4 - Mr. & Mrs. G. Clarke, 308 Coventry Road, Hinckley. Refusal of planning permission for agricultural buildings at Goats Gate Farm Kirkby Lane, Brascote as it was felt that the retention of the two sectional garages used for storage purposes would, by virtue of their siting, design and materials, continue to form visually prominent and intrusive features that would appear out of keeping with the character of the surrounding area, contrary to Environment Policy 8 of the Replacement Structure Plan.

503. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

1. A parishioner raised a query regarding the Council's commitment to the ethos of the Best Kept Village Competition and wondered why efforts to maintain the village free of rubbish only lasted for a relatively short period of time. He also queried the poor state of an Emgas excavation on the Desford Road indicating that this had not been made good by the statutory undertaker for some considerable time. The Clerk was asked to contact the Gas Board to request that this work be carried out.

2. A parishioner pointed out that car parking was still taking place on the pavement at Preston Drive. The Clerk said that a letter had been sent requesting the assistance of the local Police.

3. A Non-parishioner involved with the Village Cricket Club expressed a view on behalf of the users of the facility that the practice nets that had been proposed be erected on the site suggested by the Cricket Club on the basis that players tended to congregate around the Pavilion when matches were being played. Additionally if the practice area was installed the use of the same would necessitate the transporting to and from the practice area of some 10 sets of nets and that clearly the shorter the distance these had to be carried, the better. He pointed out that the areas of concrete to be installed were smaller than the Parish Council's meeting room.

4. A parishioner requested information on the Council's future plans for the use of the Alans Way Playing Field indicating that the members should prioritise the use of the playing field to provide training facilities. The Chairman replied by confirming that the Council had a continual policy of on-going change and development and that his annual reports reflected a desire on the part of the Council to see development that would enable tennis and bowls to be played and also the possible extension of the playing field by the acquisition of additional land. He further advised that the Council had looked objectively at the possibility of precepting for the provision of an all-weather playing surface but that this had, in the event, proved too expensive an exercise in the short term. The Chairman further advised the meeting that a recent article in Verdon Views had commented that approximately 50 parishioners found it necessary to go outside the village to play bowls. The Chairman had only been able to identify through his enquiries 9 local parishioners in this category. He asked the Clerk to write to the co-editors of the local newspaper in the hope that they could identify the persons involved. The Chairman expressed the view that if the need for such a facility was as indicated in the report and was a genuine requirement, the Council would look at the possibility of providing a bowling green.

5. The manager of one of the football teams forming part of the Newbold Verdon Junior Football Club advised the Chairman that the Junior Football Club was fully supportive of any proposals by the Parish Council to extend the facilities at the Alans Way Playing Field.

504. CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION TIME

1. Mrs. Spence raised the following:-
(a) She asked whether Harry Bell could be requested to litter pick on the Alans Way Playing Field. Mr. Watson informed the meeting that so far as he was aware Mr. Bell already undertook this work. It was also pointed out that the Council's contractor was required to remove litter and debris on each occasion that he cut the grass.

(b) She reported that someone had been responsible for starting a fire on the Toddler Park play equipment on Dragon Lane Recreation Ground and that this had been reported to the Police. The Clerk reported that the damage caused had been repaired during the time that the equipment was being refurbished over the Easter holiday.

2. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Borough Council to establish a price from its contractor for the emptying of the litter bins on the Dragon Lane Recreation Ground.

3. Mr. Law raised the issue regarding the proposal of Cadeby Homes development to the rear of properties on the Desford Road, pointing out that the offer by Cadeby Homes to provide the Parish Council with additional playing field land with all accommodation works complete as part of its proposal for the residential development contained 'no strings'. He stated that the developer should be encouraged to further

his proposals regarding this development without any strings being attached as far as the Parish Council was concerned. The Chairman agreed.

4. Mr. Mensley raised the following:-
(a) He enquired whether the Verdon in Bloom Association water pump remained insured by the Parish Council and the Clerk confirmed that this was so.

(b) He asked the Chairman to confirm whether or not the Parish Council would be interested in buying some bushes for planting in the car park at the Alans Way Playing Field. The Chairman confirmed that this would be beneficial to the Parish Council.

5. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council's precept had included provision for the cost of re-painting the iron railings surrounding the War Memorial and suggested that this be done in black paint with gold tops to the railings. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for this work to be carried out and was further requested to ask the Council's contractor to cut back some of the greenery within the War Memorial.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25 p.m.