MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION ALANS WAY NEWBOLD VERDON ON MONDAY 23RD MAY 1994

PRESENT	CHAIRMAN	M.W. Preston
	COUNCILLORS	H.M. Francks, P. Chick, J.R. Watson G.Law
	BOROUGH COUNCILLOR	J. Crooks
	CLERK	E.A. Walsh
	PARISHIONERS	4

APOLOGIES Mrs. S. Spence, M.B. Mensley, A. Hurst

MINUTES The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 17th May 1993 having been circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING None

BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT The best kept allotment award of a personalised shield and gift voucher was presented to Roger Wigston by Mrs. H. Francks.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The village in general still seems to suffer from litter problems despite the regular attention of 'FOCSA'.

Last year 1993 our 'Best Kept Village' attempt seemed to flounder in the early stages, but then we can always blame 'The Ref'. We were also very quickly eliminated from the 'Radio Leicester Quiz' contest.. Not a lot to cheer in 1993, but then there is always the satisfction of 'taking part'.

We have of course entered again for both events.

Last year I was under the impression that the Old Rectory iron fence was to be refurbished. No doubt the pot ran dry.

Once again I would like to thank the Clerk my Vice Chairman and all members of the Parish Council for their continued support.

Alans Way Playing Field

The focal point of Alans Way Playing Field is of course the Pavillion. I feel that we can be justly proud of this Pavilion and the facilities that it provides. Having recently had an opportunity to look around a similar building ina neighbouring village, I was somewhat shocked to see the appalling mess and rather dirty state into which that building had been allowed to deteriate. Considerable grants (from Sporting Organisations) had been used to help fund the project. This Parish I feel has taken very great care of this building having regard to spending other peoples money.

The field itself is very well used and maybe in the not too distant future we shall have to look at the possibility of extending the playing area. It is well worth remembering that Alans Way Playing Field was initially bought for organised sporting events and I think to that end we have been successful.

Dragon Lane Playing Field

This central Playing Field/Recreation Ground continues to be a very well used facility. It does however suffer from misuse by some uncaring and thoughtless people. Some dog walkers continue to allow their dogs to eposit their faeces at random all over the field. This is not only an unpleasant practise but can endager the health of children who may come into contact with the faeces. The Parish Council does not want to stop anyone from walking their dogs on public land. Please use your own back gardens as dog toilets.

The little bins are now being emptied by FOCSA but there is still too much rubbish being deposited on the field.

Vandalism still rears its ugly head with attacks on the Toddler Park equipment. Seats still get broken. However, the second planting of young trees seems to have been successful. The footpath from Preston Drive to the Playing Field is still in need of cleaning up litter, dog faeces, vandalism still cause problems will we ever see a clean and tidy village.

The Cemetary & Churchyard

At the time of writing the cemetary is now looking Spring like. The removal of waste grave soil and the recent mowingsmake this corner of the village a credit to the Parish. The new fence between the cemetary and the school has been completed. We should now be looking at planting a hedge in the Autumn. The corner near the Garden of Remembrance needs some attention (maybe a wattle fence). The approaches to the Church were known by many of the older members of the village as 'The Granite' and Church Row. The Borough Councils Enviromental Scheme seems to have born out this early name. The granite sets are much more welcome and serviceable to the residents and give a better finish than the loose red gravel. Hopefully one or two flower troughs will be provided in this area by 'Verdon in Bloom' committee.

PRECEPT The Clerk gave a report on the precept for 1994/95 and highlighted the major items of expenditure. The total precept was £27,029.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORs ANNUAL REPORT

MONDAY 23RD MAY 1994

COUNCILLOR MRS M J CROOKS

I have served as member for the Newbold Verdon Ward on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for the past seven years and commence my eighth year this May. I have been a member of the Housing Committee for the whole of that period and for the last three I have also served on the Health & Leisure Committee.

The last year has again been partly occupied by the investigations into the removal of Councillor M Handford from the Health & Leisure Committee. Basically for asking too many awkward questions. More and more information came to light of events behind the scenes, culminating with a discussion on the true cost of the payments made to the Ex-Principal Chief Officer and a writ to be issued at any time by Councillor Handford against the Council, for slander and loss of earnings.

A long battle followed to get the District Auditors Report on the Trickle Transfer of Council Houses presented to the Full Council. The leading group sent the report back several times (they did not agree with the Auditors findings). Liberal Democrats put down a six member motion asking for a Special Meeting of the Council and asked that the District Auditor be invited to give his report and asnwer any quetion that might arise. Members could then discuss ways of tightening up standing orders to prevent any similar problems occurring in the future. The meeting was held but whilst the Mayor allowed the Auditor to speak and also answer questions, she insisted upon closing the meeting and no further discussion was allowed. This saw the Council being featured on BBC 2 News in July 1993.

GENERAL

The nil rate set by the Borough Council for the year 1993/4 resulted in money being spent from balances to offset the deficit. The officers have warned Members that the Council will be out of Capital Funds within two to Three years.

Discussions on Unity Authority Status took place in various venues throughout the Borough and a questionaire was produced and delivered to every household.

Municipal Mutual Insurance went into receivership leaving the Council with a scramble to obtain temporary cover.. Quotes for permenant cover was finally accepted through Sedgewick UK.

A purge has taken place on Councillors declaring interests, following new Government guidelines which apply to all Councillors at all levels.

The appointment of a new Legal Officer was not successful in the first instance due to the poor quality of the candidates and also the stringent conditions applied by the Council following the Cleary affair possibly put other possible candidates off applying. But we recently appointed Mr T Howes as Director of Legal and Administrative Services after the position was re-advertised.

The calendar for meetings for the year 1993/4 was altered to run on a six weeks cycle except for the Planning Committee whose meetings would be held every three weeks.

HEALTH & LEISURE COMMITTEE

The long battle to curtail the increased activities and smells from Charnwood Poultry at Markfield still carries on. The Council have not been successful in enforcing any further conditions on the Company. An application was received to build up to 40 houses on the site, this was refused but members agreed that should a plan for a ribbon developement be forthcoming they would look on it more favourably, as this would be in line with the other part of the road.

Automatic toilets have been installed in a prominent position at Earl Shilton. This is because of the constant damage by vandalism ect to the toilets sited in the car park off the main road.

The funding, design and siting of a fully attended toilets facility has gone through all the various committee stages and hopefully Hinckley will have the latest most up to the minute toilet block in the Midlands by the end of this year. Facilities will include a Mother and Baby room and 24 hour disabled toilet. Station Road was finally chosen for the site, opposite the Post Office.

The Ashby Canal towpaths, car parks and bank repairs have been completed and several guided walks were organised along with information booklets. The Planning Committee gavethe canal added protection by passing a conservation zone along the canal bank and towpaths within the Borough.

The poop scoop scheme has been expand to cover the parks and open areas in Barwell and Earl Shilton and the rest of the parks in Hinckley.

Plans for the new synthetic sports pitch (the only one this side of Leicester) has gone trough all the committee stages. This is to be constructed at Earl Shilton. The Sports Council said there was a serious gap in this type of facility in our area. Half the cost will come from the Sports Council with the Borough and County funding the rest. Costs are expected to be in the region of £100,000.

The campaign to up date and standardise Taxis licenced by the Borough has been successful inasmuch as the MOT testing will now be done by at least two garages in the future. Spot test by the Councils own inspectors will take place and any defective vehicles will be taken off the road immediately.

Bottle, Paper and Can banks have been installed in the larger villages in the borough and have proved to be a great success. Plans to install units in the smaller villages have been agreed, even though the market for waste paper has tailed off due to the Germans flooding companies with free waste.

Council have purchased land adjacent to Burbage Common, at a very good price, part of the land is being sub-let for a short period for farming, until plans have been finalised for its use.

PLANNING.

Contraversy regarding the 'Cadeby Market' continues. There is an obvious need for such a market if we can find the right site. The Borough Council has taken High Court Action against the owner of Market Bosworth Rectory who has made 22 major alterations to the grade two listed building without planning consent. The cost to the Council amounted to £48,000. This sent a ripple of concern around the Planning offices of Councils all over the country.

Several planning appeals against refusal for permission of Gypsy Sites, (one at Markfield, two in Nailstone - Bagworth Road and Wood Lane, also Ferndale in the Bagworth Ward) were all refused against all the odds. The Council were also looking to get Designation Status and a working party was set up to further this. Just as the Council were poised to complete this the Government stopped all grants and any further designation of existing Gypsy Sites, so we are back to square one!

Various conservation areas have been passed, Osbaston East being the nearest.

Discussions about the New National Forest have been held, the Environmental improvement Fund put forward £10,000 for a scheme for obtaining and planting trees on land at Bagworth, but then voted not to give any further money until the Government (who launched the scheme as a joint venture) come up with the first of their contributions.

The problems with the Pig farmer at Barton in the Beans continues, he has applied to increase his herd from 2000 (limit set by the Government Inspector at the Public Enquiry) to 4000. This was passed on the recommendation of the Officers who said that should members refuse permission and the applicant whent to appeal and won it we would not be able to impose any conditions or restrictions.

Northern Parishes Local Plan was abandoned and work on a Borough Wide Plane (draft) started as per Government instructions.

HOUSING

The transfer of up to 600 houses to Orbit Housing Ass and the gifting of land at Barlestone, Barwell and Burbage has resulted in over 40 new homes being built in Barlestone alone. Plans are underway for at least another 20 homes in the other areas during the coming year. The transfer of council houses is not proceeding as fast as was previously envisaged.

Regular meetings between the Housing Committee and Tenants Ass in the Borough have been held. Discussions mainly on the Trickle Transfer Scheme and repairs to the BISF houses at Bagworth to the tune of £390,000 were the subject also similar schemes in Barwell and Earl Shilton.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Chairman,
Newbold Verdon Parish Council

It is a year since I was elected as County Councillor for the Markfield Division, covering an attractive area of rural Leicestershire - including Newbold Verdon, Barlestone, Bagworth, Thornton, Stanton-under-Bardon and Markfield.

In that time I have tried to demonstrate how important is the work of the five Parish Councils in the Division. Whilst Parish Council powers have noticeably diminished in recent years, it is important to stress that the PC is democracy at the grass-roots, and I do not have to remind the PC that your knowledge of and commitment to the Parish keeps you at the forefront of parishioners concerns - you are the first to be questioned, challenged, encouraged and often berated. Public Service is the reward.

For my part, I have found the year interesting, rewarding and a learning experience. Statistically, I have received some 200 enquiries for help, advice and information, and attended about 165 meetings (Parish, County, village, governors, etc.) across the Division.

Some of the enquiries, although important to the people concerned, have been relatively simple to deal with, others less so. Main Street, for instance, is in need of attention, but there is little money available. However, I have pursuaded the Western Division of the Highways Dept. to have another look at the problem, and I await their report. I hope it will be resolved quickly. On the other hand, how does one solve a neighbour dispute, apart from listening to their concerns. Then there was the family of five (not of this village) facing eviction in the February snows, and I was able to give them the keys to their new home less than 24 hours before the eviction order was served.

As I said initially PC powers have sadly diminished. At the County Council I see the same thing happening. Increasingly, Central Government is taking away local democracy by removing powers from the County Council to Government agencies (ie QUANGOS). These agencies are usually administered by committees of non-elected people appointed by the Secretary of State for this or that. The Police Committee, for instance, which has a majority of elected members, will change from next April. Then there will be a majority of appointees by the Home Secretary, and a minority of elected members.

Local Government Review is another cause for concern. Hinckley and Bosworth BC who initially supported the 'status quo' are collaborating with Blaby District Council to try and attain unitary status as one council. This will lead to more centralisation to the government, because a smaller authority will not be able to afford the costs of education (including special education) or social services as just two examples. At present, the County Council is able to vire monies across

the County to support expensive small schools, special schools, and other services which are costly, but essential to a rural community. Many services are now so complicated and expensive that only a county-wide organisation can (a) offer the right expertise or (b) afford the cost.

The County Ivanhoe Line is well on course and I shall be enjoying a commemorative train ride from Loughborough, through Leicester to Burton-on-Trent on May 27. By 1995 residents of Newbold Verdon will be able to travel from stations at Desford and Bagworth for the price of a bus ticket on new sprinter trains.

Another exciting County initiative is the Rural Strategy and Action Programme. The main objectives will focus on rural economy, tourism, community facilities and activities, community care, education and training, housing, employment, conservation and the environment and transport and traffic. I would be happy to advise and support the PC in developing any of these initiatives for the benefit of the village.

Finally, in these difficult times I have attempted to promote Newbold Verdon at all levels and will continue to do so. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Stu Ball.

Stu Ball, County Councillor

Coley Cottage, Merrylees, Leics. LE9 9FG
0455 823881

20 May 1994

I am a member of the following County committees, subcommittees, working groups, etc. which may be of interest to the Parish Council:

Education
Education Agencies
Special Education And Welfare (Vice-spokesman)
Pre Fives Provision Working Group
Residential Service Policy Board
Curriculum and Assessment Working Group
Race Relations
Cliffe Hill Quarry Liaison
Groby Quarry Liaison
National Forest Forum
Agriculture and Environment Protection

Observer: North-West Leics Area of Mining Decline
Leics Coalfields Rural Partnership
Ivanhoe Line

Governor: Barlestone Primary School & Community Centre
Stanton-under-Bardon Primary School

MONTAGUE CHARITY 1993 - 94

Apart from one or two plots, most of the allotments at the Bog are cultivated and yielding rents.

There are still too many plots not cultivated or yielding rent, at the Top Close site, although there is always 1 or 2 new lettings. This is then offset by allotments being abandoned.

Due to the very wet Summer of 1993, it was decided that whilst the standard of some of the allotments was still very high it was difficult to select one for The Best Kept Allotment award and therefore the award was witheld for 1993.

Due to some drainage problems at the Bog it was decided not to distribute any charity monies this year.

LORD CREWE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.

MEETING HELD AT NEWBOLD VERDON SCHOOL
AT 7.00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 20TH JANUARY 1994

Present: Mr D. Wilkinson (Chairman).
Mr A. Hurst.
Mr R. Watson.
Mr M. Preston.
Mr M. Mould.

The Meeting opened with the minutes of the last meeting being read and approved.

The Trustees shared the view that in the light of interest rates being very low at the moment, there was no benefit to be gained from opening an Enterprise Account and they therefore decided to leave the banking arrangements as they are at the moment.

The Trustees noted the fact that they had agreed to donate £100.00 to the Rainbow Appeal in memory of Mr Benny Clinton (a long serving Trustee) who died a few months ago.

The Ledgers and Bank Statement were then examined by the Trustees who were pleased to note showed a balance of £1193.37 had already accumulated in the account.

Mr Mould was asked if the school had any requests for help at the moment. In response to this, Mr Mould explained that due to unforeseen changes in the funding for the County Library Service, there was going to be a substantial shortfall for this current year, and that money to buy more reference and fiction books for the school library was an urgent need.

After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the sum of £1,000 be donated to the school for these books to be purchased.

Mr Mould thanked the Trustees for their generosity and said that the books would be ordered as soon as possible.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.43PM.