

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, M Gillespie, P Mount and J Thacker

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any  
Apologies were received from Cllrs C Ibbotson, S Kinvig and D Shuttleworth.

2. To receive disclosures of interest  
There were no disclosures of interest.

3. To receive the Head Groundsman's report
  - a. Projects programme update  
The updated projects list was received.

It was noted that the second bench on The Spinney had now been installed and positive feedback had been received from residents with regard to the pathway and the benches. However, correspondence was received from a resident who considered that the bin was too close to the bench. It was noted that the bin had been placed closer as previously litter was being dropped rather than taken to the bin. It was therefore recommended to monitor for any further feedback.

Subsequent to the temporary resurfacing works being completed to the car park at Willoughby Road Playing Fields, it would be requested that regular reviews of the surface be carried out by the Grounds Staff and for them to top up the potholes with spare aggregate, to prevent the more frequent hire of machinery for remedial works.

There was discussion regarding the grasses in The Square's planters which were detailed in the schedule of works as needing to be trimmed. It was queried why the previous recommendation, to remove the grasses and replant the planters, was not being scheduled. Following this recommendation having been approved by full council in the July council meeting. This would now be referred to the Finance Working Party to review, as there had been some reservation about this council decision due to cost.

- b. Routine maintenance programme  
There was nothing to discuss.

4. To discuss the Cemetery, including
  - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)  
It was reported that Christmas wreaths were scheduled to be removed from plots within the cemetery towards the middle of February, to allow more time for people to collect items if they require.

- b. Cemetery B layout  
There was nothing to discuss.

- c. Memorial inspections  
It was reported that the recommended repair works were now being scheduled for completion by Memsafe with an additional recommendation having been received regarding a damaged memorial in the closed churchyard, which was to lay it down.

Enquiries were being made regarding resealing the lid on a vault in the closed churchyard with options and costings to be brought back to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

5. Community Speed Watch  
Correspondence had been received from Leicestershire County Council regarding a Community Speed Watch Scheme. There had not yet been any official uptake from residents following the request for volunteers being advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook, although Councillor

Gillespie said that he had heard reports of several interested parties. This would also be advertised via The Herald and an expression of interest in the scheme submitted, with proposed target locations.

6. To consider any maintenance issues

It had been reported that the floodlights in the closed churchyard had not been switched on as they were frequently turning off. This was being looked into, and St Andrews Church liaised with.

It was noted that a commercial weedkiller which specifically targets thistles had been sourced and ordered with the intention to weed kill the wildflower area in the cemetery this year and to reseed next year, using seeds from a new supplier.

It was reported that the planning application submitted for the repair works to the pathway in the closed churchyard had now been approved with the works to be scheduled.

7. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. To consider matters raised to the attention of the Estates Working Party by non-member Councillors

There were no matters raised.

9. To receive matters arising for information purposes

There were no matters arising.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.