

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, 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 Cllr S Burditt.
2. To receive disclosures of interest  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. To discuss the Cemetery, including
  - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)  
The options for remedial works to the pathway which runs around the semi-circular section of cremation plots were further discussed with it being resolved, as a temporary measure, to undertake maintenance in house and to monitor in order to inform a more permanent decision further down the line. In the meantime, a quote would be obtained for resurfacing the pathway.  
It was noted also that a tree had been removed from the section as it had come down in recent winds. The other trees in the section would be considered further once the numbered tree report was received.
  - i. Wildlife area at bottom of Cemetery A  
It was reported that maintenance on the wildlife area at the bottom of cemetery A would be undertaken alongside hedgecutting.
  - ii. Cemetery B layout  
There was nothing to report.
4. Leysland Play Area  
It was noted that quotes with regard to the slide on Leysland Play Area are being chased by Wicksteed from an external contractor.
5. Open spaces on Gwendoline Drive  
It was reported that, although acknowledgement of the query regarding ownership and responsibility of the two open spaces on Gwendoline Drive had been received, a response to the enquiry was still outstanding. Since Leicestershire County Council had previously cut the two areas and with grass cutting season approaching, a response and assistance in this matter are time critical and a complaint would now be submitted.
6. To consider any maintenance issues
  - a. Potential wildflower areas around Countesthorpe  
Due to the fact that it would now be too late to plant wildflower bulbs for 2024, it was resolved that this item would be further discussed at the August meeting of the Estates Working Party. In the meantime, an estimated cost per square metre would be calculated.
  - b. Remedial works to dropped soil at Cemetery  
*Recommended for approval*  
*To proceed with purchasing additional topsoil for the ground which had dropped following the recent water installation within the cemetery, at a cost of up to £400, dependant on the amount of soil required. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.*
  - c. Knee high fencing to front of Village Hall  
This item was deferred until February's meeting, when the site visit at the front of the village hall had taken place.

7. Tree Survey

It was noted that the tree works, identified as priority one in the tree survey report, would be completed by Beddows Tree Specialists by the end of February. Also, that the light pruning of the trees at the rear of the village hall were due to be completed on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

The remaining report would be reviewed to identify which works could be undertaken in house.

8. To discuss options for Christmas lights

*Recommended for approval*

*To obtain further information and costings from specialist contractors for additional Christmas lights to be installed outside of the village hall. Also, for costings for alternative option for lights at the churchyard tree to be sought. This would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration when discussing the 2024/25 budget.*

9. To receive any correspondence

*Recommended for approval*

*To respond to correspondence received from Birkett House School, offering their assistance with planting at The Square and other open space planting and maintenance, to advise that the Estates Working Party would be looking into other areas which could be explored in the future, due to The Square now being completed, and would be in touch when any arise. This decision would be formalised at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.*

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

Blaby District Councillor, A Clifford, had raised, on behalf of a resident, the request for a memorial bench to be considered on The Spinney, as well as the potential for some additional planting of wildflower bulbs.

*Recommended for approval*

*To respond to Cllr A Clifford advising that, in principle, there would be no objection to installing a memorial bench at The Spinney, however, that there would be no additional plantings due to there not being anywhere appropriate. This decision would be formalised at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.*

11. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It had been reported that a hinge on a litter bin at Dale Acre was damaged. More information would be obtained before being considered at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.

12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.