

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 5th February 2024.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, S Burditt, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson and J Thacker.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Head Groundsperson: Mr P Clarke

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Kinvig and P Mount.

2. To receive disclosures of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To discuss the Cemetery, including

a. Cemetery (A) and (B)

Feedback on the ongoing maintenance of the existing cemetery was received, with it being noted that it was looking very nice.

It was reported that the in house maintenance had now been undertaken on the pathway which runs around the semi-circular section of cremation plots, with all moss having been removed. This would continue to be monitored and maintained although it was noted that, eventually, the pathway may require resurfacing.

i. Wildlife area at bottom of Cemetery A

It was noted that works to the wildlife area at the bottom of the existing cemetery, including the rotavating of the wildflower area, were delayed due to the door to the garage which houses the relevant equipment currently unable to be opened and awaiting repair.

ii. Cemetery B layout

Recommended for approval

To submit, to Blaby District Council, the application for the installation of cremation plots in the new cemetery, using the remaining £7100 of the S106 contribution allocated from the Gillam Butts application, to be used by November 2024.

Once approved, to proceed with the installation of ten rows of cremation plots in the new cemetery, five of which would be located at the top of the cemetery, near the car park, and five at the bottom, to allow individuals a choice of location.

4. Leysland Play Area

Options regarding the slide at Leysland Play Area were discussed, with an additional option of screening the slide by planting trees on the outskirts of the play area being considered. It was noted also that quotes for the repositioning of the slide had still not been forthcoming, although continued to be chased.

Recommended for approval

To proceed with consulting those residents in the vicinity of Leysland Play Area, regarding the below options for the slide located on its outskirts, and to provide costings and considerations, in order for an informed choice to be made.

- *Remove the slide*
- *Reposition the slide by swapping with another piece of equipment in the play area*
- *Screen the slide by planting at various points outside the fence line*
- *Leave the slide as it is*

5. Open spaces on Gwendoline Drive

It was reported that Leicestershire County Council had now been contacted under the Freedom of Information Act regarding ownership of the two open spaces of land on corners of Gwendoline Drive. A response is due to be received by 14th February and would be brought to the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.

6. To consider any maintenance issues
 - a. Replacement litter bin at Dale Acre
Recommended for approval
To proceed with replacing a damaged litter bin on Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £388.95. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.
 - b. Other
There was nothing to discuss.
7. Tree Survey

It was noted that the planning applications for trees with TPO's, located on Broadfield Way, as identified on the tree survey, had been submitted to Blaby District Council.

It was reported also that the recent high winds had caused a limb to detach from a tree on The Paddock, this was removed by the groundstaff who are also completing some of the works identified in the tree survey in house.

Recommended for approval
To proceed with placing the order for the removal of the large fruit tree, located on open space on Skye Way, at a cost of £483.33. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.
8. Play equipment repairs
 - a. To receive a revised quote for the replacement of the play surface at Dale Acre
Recommended for approval
Further to additional quotes being obtained, to proceed with the most cost effective option for resurfacing works required underneath the basket swing at Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £1807.08. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.
 - b. Zip Wire
Recommended for approval
To proceed with replacing an additional part on the zipwire, as identified during the two yearly inspection and necessary to complete the inspection fully, at a cost of £463.00. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.
9. To discuss the area to the front of the Village Hall, including the knee high fence

Initial ideas to tidy up the area to the front of the village hall were discussed with options for improvements including raising the ground to make it all level, constructing a retaining wall, removing dead hedging and grassing over. Quotes for the works would be obtained, however, would be revisited at a later date due to being considered of lower priority than other scheduled projects.

It was noted that a second area to the front of the village hall, including the knee high fence, would also be discussed at a later date.
10. To finalise a response to correspondence received from Birkett House School

As previously discussed, to respond to correspondence received from Birkett House School offering assistance with planting and maintenance of open spaces, to offer the opportunity to work in partnership with the Parish Council, focussing on the seasonal bedding plants and maintenance of the Buckingham Memorial Planter.
11. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.
12. To consider matters raised to the attention of the Estates Working Party by non-member Councillors

There were no matters raised.

13. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It was noted that the changing room facility, located at Willoughby Road Playing Fields, had now been removed, with the septic tank due to be capped imminently. Remedial works to the car park had been scheduled to be undertaken by the Groundstaff within the next week.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 11th March 2024.