

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, S Burditt, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, P Mount 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  
There were no apologies for absence.
2. To receive disclosures of interest  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. To discuss the Cemetery, including
  - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)  
An update on the ongoing cemetery maintenance was received with it being reported that some of the pathways had been tidied up and the replacement gateposts had now been fitted.  
  
It was noted that the chapel would be cleaned ahead of its scheduled opening in April. The practicalities of taking kit to and from the chapel would be monitored and reviewed in three months' time.
  - i. Wildlife area at bottom of Cemetery A  
An update on the wildlife area was received with it being noted that the next phase of works in the wildlife area would be put on hold until September. It was also reported that seed for the wildflower area would be planted in April.
  - ii. Cemetery B layout  
It was confirmed that the S106 application for the installation of cremation plots in the new cemetery had been submitted and was due to be reviewed at Blaby District Council's next meeting, scheduled to take place by the end of March.
4. Open Spaces – maintenance schedule progress report  
A progress report on the ongoing maintenance schedule was received with the following being highlighted:
  - . This seasons grass cutting had now begun
  - . The temporary repair to the car park at Willoughby Road Playing Fields had been completed and one access ramp successfully installed
  - . Maintenance on Larchwood Avenue would continue to be undertaken
  - . The Fruit Tree located on the land between number 5 and 7 Skye Way was due to be removed imminently, after which a site visit would be scheduled to discuss future ongoing maintenance of the area
5. To consider any new maintenance issues  
It was reported that chickweed was prevalent in many of the planters around the village, this would be removed within the next two weeks when replanting was scheduled to take place.
6. Signage
  - a. Dale Acre  
Draft designs for signs regarding keeping dogs on leads and cleaning up after dogs, to be located at Dale Acre Play Area, were received and accepted. It was suggested that additional signage regarding dogs being kept out of Leysland Play Area may also be well received. Designs would be drafted before being reviewed at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.  
  
*Recommended for approval*  
*To purchase a total of six signs, to be located at Dale Acre and Leysland Play Area, at a total*

cost of £222.50. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.

To include in a future edition of *The Herald*, information regarding the implications of not cleaning up after dogs or keeping them on leads.

b. Wildlife Area

Potential signage options regarding the wildlife area, intended to highlight the fact that it is a wildlife area and therefore more natural, were discussed. Design options would be further considered at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.

7. Leysland play area

Consultation responses regarding the future of the slide on Leysland Play Area were received and considered.

Recommended for approval

*To leave the slide in its current position and further review in six months' time.*

*To include in a future edition of The Herald, information regarding the decision as well as notice that this would continue to be monitored. Also, to respond to residents involved in the consultation to advise the same information and ask them to keep us informed of any issues and their magnitude.*

8. Open spaces on Gwendoline Drive

The contact which had been made with Leicestershire County Council under the Freedom of Information Act had not yet received a response and would continue to be chased as a priority.

9. Tree survey

It was noted that works identified in the tree survey were currently being undertaken, both in house and by Beddows Tree Specialists.

It was reported that the office had been further contacted by a resident regarding the trees at the rear of the village hall, expressing their dissatisfaction with the works completed.

Recommended for approval

*To undertake no further works to the trees situated at the rear of the village hall, however, to undertake research as to the cost and lifestyle of potential replacement plantings, should they be required in the future.*

*To put forward to the Strategy Planning and Policy Committee, the draft Tree Management Policy for consideration.*

10. Application for use of Centenary Paddock

a. Countesthorpe Scouts

Following a noticeable increase in the volume of amplification from the Centenary Paddock during the Scouts Gala in 2023, the application for its use in July 2024 was discussed.

Recommended for approval

*For the Parish Council Manager to have a meeting with the local Scouts Leader regarding the application and the conditions of the Centenary Paddock's use, specifically regarding amplification, which would then be followed up in writing.*

11. To receive any correspondence

a. Countesthorpe Bowls Club

Correspondence had been received from the local Bowls Club requesting assistance with funding. More information had been requested however no response had yet been received.

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 reported that the works being undertaken by Cadent Gas had led to multiple grass verges being damaged, this would be referred to Leicestershire County Council.

It was reported also that a representative from Blachere Illumination was scheduled to assess the village hall grounds with a view to providing a quotation for additional Christmas lights.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.