

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 8th April 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)

It was reported that the recently completed priority one tree works, to remove a coppice of trees from within the cemetery, had now been completed and, as a result, had left the area looking a little bare. The recommendation from Beddows Tree Specialists to plant five Silver Birch Trees was discussed alongside other ideas such as erecting a pergola or a memorial sculpture. More information, including costings for a pergola, would be obtained and brought to the next meeting for further consideration.

i. Wildlife area at bottom of Cemetery A

It was noted that design options for the wildlife area sign were still being worked on and would be brought to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

Recommended for approval

To undertake works to the pathway surrounding the wildflower area, creating instead a grassed path, resulting in lower ongoing maintenance requirements as well as being in keeping with the area.

ii. Cemetery B layout

It was confirmed that Blaby District Council had approved the S106 application for the installation of cremation plots in the new cemetery, which had now been marked out by the Groundstaff. Works were anticipated to begin on 13th May 2024.

A site visit would be scheduled to review the locations of plantings and benches.

Recommended for approval

To submit an application to Blaby District Council, for the remaining £687 of S106 funding to be used in the new cemetery for plantings at the entrance and one bench.

4. To consider any maintenance issues

It was noted that quotations had now been received for the Buckingham Memorial Planter and that Birkett House would be contacted to confirm whether they would like to be involved in growing, planting and maintaining seasonal plants in the planter.

Recommended for approval

To purchase the required materials for the construction of the Buckingham Memorial Planter at a cost of £960. This recommendation would be referred to The Finance Working Party for consideration.

5. Signage

Final designs of the dog signs for Dale Acre and Leysland Play Areas were reviewed with it being resolved to proceed with placing the order, following prior approval from both the Finance Working Party and Parish Council.

6. Health Centre Car Park

There was discussion regarding the correspondence received from the Health Centre

surrounding the implementation of parking enforcement in its car park. Comments made by the Planning Committee were also received and considered. Any additional comments from the Estates Working Party were noted and would be shared with the Finance Working Party, who would also be considering the proposal, before being reviewed at the full meeting of the Parish Council.

7. To discuss Christmas Lights

The proposal from Blachere Illumination was received and considered, with it being agreed that works could likely be completed in house at a lesser cost.

Recommended for approval

To obtain costings for additional Christmas lights to be installed in St Andrews Churchyard, to replace the fronting lights at the village hall and for Leicestershire County Council to provide power to The Square, to be considered at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party.

To refer to the Finance Working Party, for discussion regarding budget, the topic of Christmas lights within the village.

8. Skye Way

It was noted that the large Fruit Tree sited on land between 5 and 7 Skye Way had now been removed, with thanks having been received from one of the neighbouring properties. A site meeting was scheduled to discuss the future of a second Fruit Tree as well as the ongoing maintenance of the land.

9. Lamp Post Poppies

Recommended for approval

To proceed with ordering, from the Royal British Legion, the following lamp post memorial decorations to be displayed back-to-back on lamp posts around the centre of the village:

- 50 Remembrance Tommy Lamp Post Signs at a cost of £211.99

- 25 Large Lamp Post Poppies (to be displayed alongside 25 poppies already owned) at a cost of £125

This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.

10. Corner of Gwendoline Drive

It was noted that Persimmon Homes had now been contacted, following a response from Leicestershire County Council, regarding the two areas of land on corners of Gwendoline Drive, and would continue to be chased. In the meantime, as a temporary measure, as the mowing season is now underway it was resolved for Countesthorpe Parish Council to cut the grass.

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

There were no matters arising.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 7th May 2024 at 2pm.