

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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 receive the Head Groundsman's report

a. Projects programme update

The Head Groundsman reported that the only outstanding project was the installation of the planter on The Paddock which would be completed once the weather improved.

Projects which had been submitted for consideration in the 2025/26 budget were discussed with it being resolved to defer the installation of a pergola in the cemetery to allow for necessary remedial works to be undertaken on the chapel.

b. Routine maintenance programme

It was noted that the painting refresher was underway and would be completed imminently, weather permitting.

Recommended for approval

*To purchase a replacement litter bin for Dale Acre Play Area, at a cost of £329 from Broxap, as the existing one was decaying.*

*For next time when hiring a digger/dumper to look at repairing an area of pathway in The Spinney which is starting to flood as well as levelling ground in the cemetery in preparation for the future installation of a pergola.*

4. To discuss the Cemetery, including

a. Cemetery (A) and (B)

It was reported that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had confirmed that the application for a headstone for Herbert Swann had been accepted and arrangements would be made for its installation, although no timeframe was provided.

It was noted that wreaths placed within the cemetery for the Christmas period would be removed over the next week.

Notification of a Facebook post being published requesting the re-siting of a memorial bench to the Cemetery was noted.

Recommended for approval

*Should an official enquiry be made, for the resident to be advised that, unfortunately, the bench could not be installed at the cemetery due to it not being in keeping with other cemetery benches, however, guidance would be given with regard to alternative locations.*

b. Cemetery B layout

It was noted that the weed spraying had begun in the cemetery and would be completed imminently, weather permitting.

5. To consider any maintenance issues

Recommended for approval

To obtain costings for godfather posts to reinforce the posts to the fence at the bottom of Dale Acre, with a view to the fence being replaced in two to three years' time.

6. Closed Churchyard pathway

Advice had been sought regarding the pathway in the closed churchyard at St Andrews Church as tree roots were causing the path to raise in places. Further investigations would be made as to the materials which could be used in the repair as well as whether any planning permission or church faculty approval would be required.

7. Severn Trent Water drains at the Cornerstones

Following reports of overflowing drains at the Cornerstones, Severn Trent Water confirmed that this had been initially cleared however further work was required to clear bricks and debris which were causing a blockage. This had been included in a schedule of works when the required kit was available.

8. Section 106 monies

It was noted that the application for the purchase and installation of a planter on The Centenary Paddock had been approved by Blaby District Council with a deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 imposed for its completion.

9. Willoughby Road Playing Field gate

Recommended for approval

*Following a request to review the securing of the gates at Willoughby Road Playing Fields, to continue leaving the gates unlocked but to monitor as well as asking the local PCSO to monitor any activity which takes place. Additionally, to get advice on the latest that the hedge could be cut to a lower height.*

10. Request for memorial bench – The Spinney

Recommended for approval

*To give permission for a memorial bench to be installed on The Spinney however to stipulate that the bench be purchased via the Parish Council to ensure that it is in keeping with existing benches. A site meeting would be arranged with Active Arts to discuss the location of the bench.*

11. Tree surgery

There was nothing to update.

12. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no matters raised.

14. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It was noted that the solar power fitting had now been installed on one of the Westcotec Speed Signs which was back in position along Station Road.

Ongoing issues with parking on double yellow lines at The Bulls Head had been reported and the local PCSO was investigating.

It was reported that a road sign and light on Foston Road had been damaged and would be reported to Leicester County Council Highways Department along with a damaged speed hump on Winchester Road.

Recommended for approval

*In principle, to permit St Andrews Church and Countesthorpe Scouts to hire The Centenary Paddock on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July for a fun day and gala and to review the requests further at the next meeting of the Estates Working Party in order to determine any conditions of its use.*

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.