

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 7th April 2025.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, S Burditt, 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
Apologies were received from Cllr M Gillespie.
2. To receive disclosures of interest
There were no disclosures of interest.
3. To receive the Head Groundsman's report
 - a. Projects programme update
The Head Groundsman reported that works to the external walls of the chapel in the existing cemetery were underway with some brickwork having been repointed and a number of bricks replaced.
 - b. Routine maintenance programme
The Head Groundsman reported that mowing season was underway which was taking priority and that weeding and watering of the planters would be kept on top of also.
4. To discuss the Cemetery, including
 - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)
It was noted that interments were now taking place in the last available area of the existing cemetery.
 - b. Cemetery B layout
Recommended for approval
To purchase 8 memorial trees at a cost of £69 per tree, to be planted in Autumn 2025, in preparation for burial and cremation plots being offered in the new cemetery. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.
5. To consider any maintenance issues

It was reported that the damaged item of play equipment on Dale Acre Play Area had now been repaired, however, due to the rope elements becoming worn, options for removing the ropes and securing the two main structures would be costed up.

It was noted that the soil which had been installed to replace the pathways in The Square had sunk and would be topped up and seeded as soon as possible.

It was noted that the hedge which borders Willoughby Road Playing Field with Willoughby Road would be cut back in September.

It had been reported that a section of fencing near to Countesthorpe Academy was damaged and would be reported to Leicestershire County Council Highways Department.

Recommended for approval
To remove the planter located at the end of The Spinney ahead of the development on Foston Road beginning. This would be relocated to another area on The Spinney, near to a bench.
To leave an area at the bottom of Willoughby Road Playing Fields unmown as part of 'No Mow May'.
To obtain costings for improvements to the grounds at the front of the village hall in the form of raising and grassing the land before installing new planters. Once obtained, this would be referred to the Finance Working Party and Village Hall Management Committee for consideration.

To obtain a quote for the village hall solar panels to be cleaned.

6. Memorial bench at The Spinney

It was noted that the memorial bench for Active Arts had now been ordered as well as materials required for the base. An invoice would be issued to Active Arts on completion of the project.

7. Closed Churchyard pathway

It had been confirmed that both planning and faculty applications would be required for the works on the closed churchyard pathway, however, these could not yet be submitted as the quote for completion of the works from Oswin Builders was outstanding. This would be chased as a priority.

8. Section 106 monies

It was noted that the s106 payment of £1769.47 for The Paddock planter had been received from Blaby District Council.

9. Dog waste bins

Conversations with Blaby District Council regarding the dog waste bin on Stroma Way were ongoing. It had been acknowledged that a bin was required in the vicinity of Stroma Way but that Stroma Way itself was unsuitable for the installation.

10. To discuss the footpaths at The Spinney

Quotations for options of suitable alternatives for replacing the pathway on The Spinney, as well as areas of the cemetery pathway, would now be obtained and brought back to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

11. Willoughby Road – Blaby and Whetstone Football Club

The request for additional information had been submitted to Blaby and Whetstone Football Club, as well as some information regarding prospective costings, with no response yet received. Should a response be received, this would be brought back to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

12. To consider applications for use of The Centenary Paddock

Following approval being granted to both St Andrews Church and Countesthorpe Scouts for use of The Centenary Paddock for events, additional conditions were confirmed with both hirers, including requesting a copy of The Scout's risk assessment. Once received, this would be referred back to the Estates Working Party for consideration.

13. Parish Partnerships

A 'Parish Partnerships' newsletter, received from Leicestershire County Council, regarding additional services which Parish Council's may wish to take responsibility for, was considered. It was resolved to monitor for further updates and report back as required.

14. Health Centre car park

It was noted that fines had been issued to vehicles which had parked in the spaces owned by the Parish Council within the Health Centre car park as they had exited by cutting across the main car park which is under camera control. The Practice Manager had been contacted and the situation would continue to be monitored.

15. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no matters raised.

17. To receive matters arising for information purposes

Information regarding the 'School Streets' programme would be obtained from Leicestershire County Council and brought back for discussion at a future meeting due to ongoing issues

regarding parking on Gwendoline Drive at school drop off and pick up times. In addition to this, it was reported that the PCSO had arranged for a car camera to survey the area at key times.

It was reported that cameras had been installed on lampposts around the village with no notice as to what they were for or who had installed them. This would be investigated and brought back to a future meeting.

18. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 6th May 2025.