

## Estates Working Party

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

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, C Ibbotson, P Mount, D Shuttleworth and J Thacker

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Head Groundsman: Mr P Clarke

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Gillespie and S Kinvig.

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 ongoing projects list was reviewed however the Head Groundsman reported that, due to the demands of the routine maintenance schedule, all projects were currently on hold. The list would be colour coded ahead of its next review to allow a clearer view of the status of each project.

b. Routine maintenance programme

The Head Groundsman reported that hedge cutting season was well underway with many hedges having now been completed. Alongside this, it had been necessary to continue grass cutting. It was reported also that the box hedging in the cemetery is continuing to recover in places and would be monitored on an ongoing basis.

It was noted that, whilst maintaining the open space between properties on Skye Way, the Grounds Staff had noticed that someone had been cutting back the Silver Birch trees.

Neighbouring properties had been written to, advising that the Parish Council accepts no liability for any damage which may occur to properties as a consequence of these works as it does not own the land and is not responsible for the tree works undertaken.

4. To discuss the Cemetery, including

a. Cemetery (A) and (B)

There was nothing to discuss.

i. Wildflower area

Arrangements would be made to strim and weed kill the wildflower area once it is no longer in flower. It would be reseeded in the Spring, as usual, however an alternate supplier of the seeds would be used due to the poor quality received this year.

b. Cemetery B layout

It was noted that a decision on the locations of the benches and bins for the new cemetery area would need to be decided imminently as it was not expected that it would be too far into the future that plots would be being sold.

c. Memorial inspections

Further to notices being put up requesting the owners of five failed memorials to contact the Parish Council office, communication from distant relatives of two had been received. As no immediate relatives had been in touch, the previous recommendation, for the Parish Council to accept the quote of £825 which had been received from Memsafe for the required repair works to five failed memorials, remains unchanged.

5. To consider any maintenance issues

It was noted that the metal bench located at the bus stop on Leicester Road would be painted in due course.

Due to the deterioration which had occurred on the car park of Willoughby Road Playing Fields, costings would be obtained for a temporary fix and brought back to a future meeting of the

Estates Working Party. In the meantime, the large pile of stones which had accumulated would be moved into the fenced compound area.

6. Budget 2026/2027 – to consider any potential items for recommendation to the Finance Working Party

There was discussion regarding projects for inclusion in the 2026/2027 budget and, alongside those which the Finance Working Party are already aware of, the replacement of the main fence at the Paddock, at a cost of £4000, would be put forward for consideration.

7. Play equipment

a. Completion of repair works arising from the 2025 play inspection

It was reported that all works arising from the 2025 play inspection had now been completed.

b. Quotations received for replacing Dale Acre equipment with similar design as existing

Two quotations for a replacement item of kit on Dale Acre were received with it being noted that, if the Parish Council opted to remove the existing kit only it could cost around £1600 due to the correct procedures for disposing of the materials.

Additional quotes for smaller items of equipment, including inclusive equipment, and a bench, would be obtained and brought back to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

8. To receive any correspondence

a. To note that we are receiving correspondence from the PCSO with regard to illegal parking on Main Street

It was reported that numerous reports regarding illegal parking in the centre of the village had been received from the PCSO. These had been followed up by the Parish Council with Leicestershire County Council, who would not take any further action.

*Recommended for approval*

*To ask the PCSO whether she would consider contacting The Herald to request an article regarding the issue be included.*

9. Incidents with dogs off leads

Following a recent incident in the cemetery which involved a dog off its lead, the Parish Council had contacted the Dog Warden to request any posters which could be displayed as well as including an article in The Herald and on the website.

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

There were no matters raised.

11. To receive matters arising for information purposes

There were no matters arising.

12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.