

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 8th December 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 updated projects list was received with the Head Groundsman reporting that, as the resurfacing works to the Spinney pathway had now been completed, arrangements would be made to install the second bench.
 - b. Routine maintenance programme
The Head Groundsman reported that all hedge cutting had now been completed with Buckingham Road having been deliberately left until the installation of the roundabout on the new development had taken place. It was also reported that the majority of the tree works had been completed.

Additionally, it was noted that the temporary resurfacing works to the car park at Willoughby Road Playing Fields had been completed. Also, that the tree stump, scheduled for removal in the Cemetery, had been removed and some remedial works undertaken on the cemetery pathways.
4. To discuss the Cemetery, including
 - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)
There was nothing to discuss.
 - b. Cemetery B layout
There was nothing to discuss.
 - c. Memorial inspections
It was noted that the order for the required repair works to five memorials which had failed the recent inspection had been placed. It was also reported that advice was being sought regarding a damaged memorial in the closed churchyard.
5. To consider any maintenance issues
It was noted that Secure-a-Field had been contacted to look at one of the self-closing gates on Dale Acre Play Area which was not closing correctly and couldn't be rectified in house.

The method statement, for repair works required on the closed churchyard pathway, had been submitted to Blaby District Council and, as soon as approval is granted, works would commence.

The lack of distinguishable spaces in the village hall car park was discussed with it being resolved to do nothing further at present.

It was reported that, at the recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee, there had been discussion as to the use of the contribution of funds donated to the Parish Council from the Countesthorpe Village Hall Charity. The preference had been to allocate the funds towards the reupholstering of the main hall chairs, rather than the project to landscape the area towards the front of the Village Hall. The project to the front of the Village Hall had still been put forward to the Finance Working Party for consideration.

Recommended for approval

To contact a stonemason for advice and a quote for the lettering on the war memorial in the closed churchyard to be redone.

To respond to a resident's request for lighting to be installed alongside the new pathway in The Spinney to advise that, at present, this would not be taken further.

To contact Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department to request a pavement sweep as the wet fallen leaves now constituted a falls hazard.

6. Parking

It was noted that correspondence continued to be received from the PCSO regarding illegal parking in the village and were forwarded on as appropriate.

It was also noted that further detail of costings had been received from Leicestershire County Council with regard to whether bollards could be installed at the area of pavement outside the chip shop, however, as it would amount to around £3000 and the Parish Council would have the ongoing costs if any repairs were required, it was recommended not to pursue this further. Alternative options were considered and the situation would be monitored.

7. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no matters raised.

9. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It was reported that a number of black bin bags had been left at various points around the village. These were believed to be from The Wombles most recent litter pick and would be reported to Blaby District Council.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 5th January 2026.