

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, S Kinvig, 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 C Ibbotson.

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.

It was noted that an emergency exit ramp had now been installed to the area at the front of the village hall and that the chapel of rest would be scheduled for completion once the weather improved.

*Recommended for approval*

*To remove the dominant grasses in the planters at The Square and relocate at Larchwood, rearranging the existing plants in the planters and purchasing new (including Azalea, Hebe, Weigelia, Tulips, Narcissus and Hyacinth) to refill them, along with the necessary compost, at an estimated cost of £440. This recommendation would be referred to the Finance Working Party for consideration.*

b. Routine maintenance programme

Due to the recent weather conditions, it had not been possible to complete all routine maintenance tasks scheduled.

4. To discuss the Cemetery, including

a. Cemetery (A) and (B)

It was reported that Christmas wreaths were scheduled to be removed from plots during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> February.

It was noted that the requirement for grave owners to respect the boundaries of their plots was being monitored with one owner having been contacted with a request to remove items which were too large.

b. Cemetery B layout

There was discussion regarding the ongoing issue of dogs being let off their leads in the new cemetery with the following actions being agreed:

- . Additional signs would be requested from Blaby District Council to replace those which had been cut down and to increase the overall quantity and visibility, including access via the existing cemetery area
- . The dog warden would be contacted and asked to visit the site
- . An article would be included in The Herald at the point that the Parish Council begins selling plots in the new cemetery area
- . The gate at the bottom of the new cemetery area would remain unlocked, with new signage

c. Memorial inspections

It was noted that the required repair works to those memorials which had failed the recent testing had now been completed.

It was also noted that the damaged slate memorial in the closed churchyard had been deemed as safe by Memsafe with no recommendation of any action to be taken. Its next scheduled inspection was for 2030 however it would be monitored in the meantime.

5. Community Speed Watch

Unfortunately, the deadline for submitting an expression of interest in the Community Speed Watch scheme had been missed by the Parish Council, however, it would continue to be advertised and volunteers recruited in preparation for a submission in January 2027.

6. To consider any maintenance issues

Arrangements had been made to meet with representatives from a playground company in order to get an accurate quote for items of inclusive equipment to be installed at Dale Acre. This would be brought back to the Estates Working Party for discussion once received.

It was noted that quotes to repaint the lettering on the war memorial had been requested and would be brought back to a future meeting.

The ongoing issue of fly tipping at the open space on Skye Way had been reported to Blaby District Council for action and a request to tidy up the shrubbery at The Bank had been submitted to Leicestershire County Council's Highways department for action.

*Recommended for approval*

*To contact St Andrews Church to discuss the recent recommendation of the War Memorial Trust, to remove wreaths attached to the war memorial due to the risk of damage.*

*To accept the quote from Secure-a-Field for the installation of a replacement hydraulic closer on one of the gates at Dale Acre, at a cost of £885. This would be recommended to the Finance Working Party for consideration. It would also be made aware that it is likely other gates would require the same works in the future.*

*To arrange for an electrician to look at the sensor on the floodlights at St Andrews Churchyard which appeared to have failed, resulting in the lights being permanently on.*

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

A request to tidy up the edging of the pathway leading from the back of the bus stop on Station Road towards The Paddock had been received and would be actioned.

9. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It was noted that Blaby District Council had responded regarding a business advertisement poster, which was being displayed at a property on Station Road, to advise that this would be monitored although, as the works were still ongoing, it was currently permitted to remain in situ.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.