

## Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, 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

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. To receive the Head Groundsman's report

a. Projects programme update

There was nothing to report.

b. Routine maintenance programme

The Head Groundsman reported that grass cutting continued to be the focus although the potential impact due to increasing fuel prices was acknowledged and would continue to be monitored. It was requested also that open spaces be given the once over prior to being mown to remove any debris which may damage equipment.

It was noted that the gate at Dale Acre play area, requiring a replacement hydraulic closer, had now been removed and was being repaired in-house. Also, that the thistles in the wildflower area were due a second bout of weed killing.

It was reported that a review of the open spaces would be scheduled with the grounds staff imminently in order to update the projects list for the 2026/27 financial year. Should any members of the working party have any projects in mind for inclusion, it was requested that these be sent over prior to the list being reviewed at the next meeting.

4. To discuss the Cemetery, including

a. Cemetery (A) and (B)

It was noted that a mound of soil being stored temporarily in the cemetery grounds would be dispersed in The Paddock and that another mound would be investigated to see how it could be disposed of.

*Recommended for approval*

*To agree, in principle, to the request of a resident to install a rustic style slate memorial stone in the cemetery but to ask that the final design be approved by the Parish Council Manager prior to being ordered.*

b. Cemetery B layout

There was discussion to agree the positioning of the scattering area in the new cemetery with it being noted that there has been no allocation for the project within the 2026/27 budget, however it would be re-costed based on discussions and put forward as a recommendation for inclusion in the 2027/28 budget.

There was also discussion regarding the requirement for a pathway to be installed from the cemetery car park to the proposed scattering section and cremation plots. This would also be re-costed and brought back to a future meeting of the Estates Working Party.

A quote had been obtained for the remaining memorial trees to be purchased, at £89 per tree, and would be brought back for further consideration later in the year. It was also noted that trees which were thought to have died within the cemetery would be monitored throughout the season and, should no improvement be noted, they would be removed.

5. To consider any maintenance issues

It was reported that replacement dog signs, for those which had been cut down, had now been installed by the dog warden however it was yet unknown whether the additional signs had been installed within the cemetery area. This would be checked and followed up accordingly.

An additional quote had been received for repainting of the war memorial lettering. All quotes would be considered at a future meeting once a response to a query had been received.

It was noted that an additional quote had been received for replacement inclusive equipment to be installed at Dale Acre. All quotes would be circulated to the Estates Working Party for review.

The following general maintenance items were noted:

- . The Spinney would be strimmed after both the daffodils and bluebells had died
- . The Buckingham memorial would be monitored to ensure that the view of the plaque does not become obscured by the plants
- . Grasses within the planters in The Square would be kept low so as not to dominate the planter and accompanying small shrubs, which would also be monitored to see whether they need to be repositioned. Verbena plants would be added to all
- . The fly tipping at Skye Way had not yet been removed and Blaby District Council continue to be chased

6. Application for the use of the Centenary Paddock by the Countesthorpe Scouts

Recommended for approval

*To approve the application from The Scouts to use The Centenary Paddock on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July for their annual gala but to draw their attention to condition 20 regarding music volume and to request additional information regarding the amplification set up to be used during the event.*

7. To receive any correspondence

Correspondence had been received from a resident requesting consideration be given to the installation of a skate park in Countesthorpe. This had been acknowledged and would be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Estates Working Party for discussion.

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 gate on the outskirts of the Redrow Estate had been closed to the public and that enquiries had been made with relevant authorities. It was noted that the gate was not related to a public right of way.

Following reports that there was ongoing fishing in the Country Park, the advice to contact the police upon witnessing such an incident would be republished in The Herald.

Concerns regarding shop property encroaching onto the pathway at The Bank was raised and would be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Estates Working Party for discussion.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 10am.