

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held on 6th July 2026.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, P Mount, D Shuttleworth, A Spooner 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. Grounds maintenance update
 - a. To review the 2026/27 projects list
The 2026/2027 projects list was reviewed with it being noted that a quote had been requested for the next tree survey.

A list of maintenance items raised by councillors and residents was received with actions being agreed for completion, either in-house and by being reported on to the relevant authorities.
 - b. To receive the Head Groundsman's report
 - i. Projects programme update
The Head Groundsman had no project updates to report.
 - ii. Routine maintenance programme
The Head Groundsman reported that grass cutting had reduced as the recent hot weather had left the grass dry. He also advised that trimming back of small hedges would now begin and painting of the cemetery railings would be completed.
4. To discuss the Cemetery, including
 - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)
 - i. To review the cemetery rules following complaint
Recommended for approval
For the Parish Council to adopt the revised Cemetery Rules following their review.
 - ii. Necessary works
There was nothing to discuss.
 - iii. Site visit to discuss where trees will need to be removed at bottom of the cemetery
The site meeting to discuss the removal of trees at the bottom of the cemetery was scheduled for Wednesday 15th July 2026.
 - b. Cemetery B layout
It was noted that the additional dog signage had now been installed in the new cemetery.

Recommended for approval
To submit an application to Blaby District Council for 15 saplings, to be planted in the new cemetery, as part of their 'Big Tree Giveaway'.

To submit a grant application to The Tree Council for a grant to purchase remaining trees required to complete the planting scheme in the new cemetery.
5. To consider any maintenance issues
 - a. To receive a list of any items raised by the public or councillors for including on the next agenda
There were no items raised.

b. Maintenance around Countesthorpe signs at entrances to the village

Recommended for approval

To write to Leicestershire County Council to request that the Countesthorpe sign on Leicester Road be removed due to the fact that it is not located at the village boundary and there is already a sign in this location, following the recent discussion on Facebook regarding the maintenance of vegetation surrounding the sign. Also, to request clarification of where road markings, including speed limits, will be included on Leicester Road, once the highways works for the new Foston Road/Leicester Road development have been completed.

6. To receive any correspondence

a. Oadby and Wigston Girls FC requesting permission to display a banner on The Paddock fence

Recommended for approval

To respond to the request received from Oadby and Wigston Girls Football Club to recommend they contact Blaby District Council for advice regarding the nature of their advertisement, specifically, whether it would require planning permission. Also, to offer the parish council noticeboards, website and Facebook as suitable alternatives for advertising.

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

There were no matters raised.

8. To receive matters arising for information purposes

It was noted that there was a road closure scheduled for 15th July for surface repair works on Station Road, however, that signs may not be positioned correctly. Leicestershire County Council would be contacted regarding this.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th August 2026 at 10am.