

Estates Working Party

Report of the Estates Working Party meeting held 10th August 2026.

Present: Cllrs V Armstrong, M Gillespie, C Ibbotson, S Kinvig, P Mount, A Spooner and J Thacker

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any
Apologies were received from Cllr D Shuttleworth.
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 updated 2026/2027 projects list was reviewed.
 - b. To receive the Head Groundsman's report
The Head Groundsman had sent a report in his absence advising of tasks which had been undertaken, including painting and watering primarily due to the recent hot weather, confirming also that the gates on Leysland Play Area were scheduled to be repaired imminently.
 - c. Routine maintenance programme
It was reported that mowing and strimming had not been undertaken as it usually would have due to the lack of grass growth in the recent hot weather and that watering of planters and memorial trees remained a priority, however, the Grounds Staff had been asked to cut the grass at the Willoughby Road football pitch.

Recommended for approval
To purchase a replacement spare dog waste bin, due to the current spare having been used at The Spinney, at a cost of £246.44 plus £12.50 delivery.
 - d. Items raised prior to the agenda being distributed by members of the public or councillors
The following list of items raised by members of the public and councillors was received and would be actioned.
 - . To undertake remedial works to the gates at Leysland Play Area
 - . To ensure cremation plots and their surrounding area is kept tidy, weeded and strimmed in both cemetery areas
 - . To tidy drainage items at the Cemetery Chapel
 - . To cut areas of grass which had grown on Broadfield Way and Willoughby RoadAdditionally, it was raised that the lock on the gate between Cemetery B and the adjacent field may have been tampered with and was difficult to open and close. This would be referred to the Grounds Staff for repair.
4. To discuss the Cemetery, including
 - a. Cemetery (A) and (B)
 - i. To review the cemetery rules
Recommended for approval
To adopt the cemetery rules, following their review as requested by the Parish Council, to make the language more empathetic.
 - ii. Necessary works
There was nothing to update.
 - iii. Feedback from site visit to discuss where trees will need to be removed at bottom of the cemetery
Feedback from the recent site meeting to discuss the removal of trees at the bottom of Cemetery A was received with the below being agreed for recommendation. Costings for

clearing the area and grassing it over would be obtained for review at a future meeting. The Head Groundsman would also be asked whether any saplings could be planted in the area once the trees had been removed.

At the site meeting, it was also confirmed that the box hedging which had been damaged by box caterpillar was beyond saving and so replacements would need to be considered.

Recommended for approval

To remove 3 or 4 trees from the bottom of Cemetery A, preserving native trees where possible, prior to clearing the area and grassing it over.

b. Cemetery B layout

There was nothing to discuss.

5. Christmas tree/lights churchyard

It was noted that St Andrews Church had installed a noticeboard in the Churchyard which would prevent the Christmas tree from being installed. The following actions would be undertaken before being brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

- . To enquire as to whether a smaller Christmas tree could be installed safely
- . To enquire with St Andrews Church as to whether the noticeboard could be temporarily repositioned
- . To obtain costings for battery operated string lights to be used in the trees in The Square, as an alternative

6. To receive any correspondence

a. Resident of Willoughby Road regarding gates to Willoughby Road Playing Fields

Correspondence had been received from a resident of Willoughby Road requesting that the Parish Council revert to locking the gates shut overnight due to antisocial behaviour in the car park. This had also been reported to the local police.

Recommended for approval

To enquire with Blaby Parish Council for any advice due to them experiencing similar issues on their open spaces.

To contact the local police regarding the incidents on Willoughby Road Playing Fields.

To respond to the resident to advise of the above actions.

b. From MP with regards to the maintenance of the area of green space at corner of Dale Acre with Reed Pool

Correspondence had been received from the office of the local MP enquiring as to whose responsibility the ongoing maintenance of a pocket of land at Dale Acre was. Leicestershire County Council had confirmed that this would be East Midlands Homes who had now been contacted by both the Parish Council and local MP's office.

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 mentioned that there had been a fire in the hedgerow on land leading from Rosebank Road towards a Farmers field.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 7th September 2026 at 10am.