

**BLABY PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE ESTATES & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
Virtual Zoom Meeting Held at 7.00pm on  
Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Wareham (Chairman),  
Ms L Bolton, Mrs M Broomhead, Mr P Muton, Mrs S McFadden, Mrs S Skeemer,  
Mrs V Jepson (Manager) & 7 x Parishioners.

EC.652            **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR**  
The following member has been nominated for Chairman of the Estates & Community committee for the 2021/22 term:-  
    • Mr Marcus Wareham  
**RESOLVED:** Mr Wareham is elected Chairman of the Estates & Community committee for the 2021/22 term.

EC.653            **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR**  
The following members have been nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Estates & Community committee for 2021/22 term:-  
    • Mr Paul Muton - 1 vote  
    • Ms Laura Bolton – 4 votes  
**RESOLVED:** Ms Bolton is elected Vice-Chairman of the Estates & Community committee for the 2021/22 term.

EC.654            **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
No apologies received.

EC.655            **4. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSAIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**  
The following disclosures of interests were made:-  
Mrs M Broomhead            Burial Rights            Personal  
Mr P Muton                    Burial Rights            Personal  
Mrs S Skeemer                Burial Rights            Personal

EC.656            **5. TO CONSIDER ENDERBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**  
    **a) Allotment Inspections**  
The second allotment inspection was carried out on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 where 15 one month notice to quit letters were sent out and 3 monitor letters were sent out.  
**AGREED:** Members had a lengthy discussion which included any allotment tenant who was present and members of the Allotment Society and the following decisions were made:-

- 6E – Keep plot and will inspect again at the July inspection.
- 7 – Keep plot due to personal issues raised and the plot will be inspected again at the June inspection. If no improvement has been made then the tenant will be asked to relinquish half a plot.
- 10E – No correspondence received, plot will be relinquished in June 2021.
- 20W – Correspondence considered, no improvement has been made, relinquish the plot in June 2021.
- 22E – No correspondence received, plot will be relinquished in June 2021
- 36W – Tenant only took the plot over in March 2021. Re-consider this plot at the July inspection.
- 37 – Correspondence considered, re-consider at the June inspection.
- 41W – Correspondence considered, re-consider at the June inspection.
- 42W - Correspondence considered, needs to relinquish the plot in June 2021, the allotments are zero-tolerance.
- 43E - Correspondence received, re-consider at the June inspection
- 44W – Correspondence considered, need to relinquish the plot in June 2021.
- 45E – No correspondence received; plot will be relinquished in June 2021.
- 45W – Plot is now vacant – Re-allocate the plot
- 56E – No correspondence received; plot will be relinquished in June 2021.
- 58 – Correspondence considered, re-consider at the July inspection.

#### **b) Social Media**

It is reported a tenant has taken it upon themselves to write false information on the Parish Councils facebook page.

Members request if any tenant have any questions, then they should contact the Parish Council directly.

#### **c) Turning Circle**

Cllr. Ms Bolton checked the allotments on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and found that vehicles were parked at the top of the turning circle.

Cllr. Ms Bolton approached the tenant and explained about not parking in the turning circle and gave the reasoning why the circle is not for parking and for dropping heavy items off only.

This gentleman was extremely argumentative and disagreed with every point made.

He also stated he had asked the lady at the opposite plot, if he could take 15 feet of her plot to make further car parking at the circle. It was explained to him that this was not to happen and that they do not own the plots to be able to make any changes.

Two tenants were present at this evening's meeting and there was a heated conversation as they didn't agree with the Councils sites rules which stated 'No vehicles are permitted past the shed'. A heated discussion was had between allotment tenants present in the audience.

**AGREED:** Write to the tenants of 23 & 27E to confirm that the allotments and the Council is zero-tolerance and a warning letter is to be sent advising both tenants that no vehicles

are to be parked at the turning circle. If a second letter is to be sent to the tenants because the rules are continuing to be breached the tenant will be evicted from their plot with immediate effect.

**d) Gate**

On several occasions when councillors have visited the allotments the gate has been left open, the rules & regulations clearly state:-

- The site must be kept secure. The last Tenant must lock the gate on exit.

Through the allotment society all tenants are to be reminded that the gate must be kept locked at all times to stop any trespassing.

**e) Bonfires**

Tenants are reminded to be mindful of the bonfire rules, they are only be lit on Wednesdays & Sundays.

**f) Allotment Society**

All members have been issued with a copy of Blaby & District Allotments & Gardens Society meeting notes from the 18<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Points raised and answered as follows:-

- New Tenants

The society application form was sent to all tenants with their renewal letters in December 2020.

- Car Parking, lack of space

Car parking is first come first served.

- Car Park Development

It is confirmed this project has been deferred until July 2021 as per the allotment tenants request, this date is not guaranteed as approval has still not been received from the land owners for the works to be carried out.

- Trespassing

If the gate was kept locked at all times no trespassers would be able to gain access. With regards to the gentleman who has complained about the bonfires a letter has been sent to him asking him not to enter the property without authorisation.

- Weedkiller – Can it be used?

There is a total ban on weedkiller, no weedkiller is to be used by any allotment tenant.

- Eviction Notice Tenants

Any tenant who has any concerns has contacted the parish council directly and their issues have been discussed by the committee at tonight's meeting and a final decision has been made.

- Condition of plots for new tenants

Members proposed requesting a deposit from new allotment tenants so it stopped new tenants taking over derelict plots, but members of the allotments and the society didn't think this was a good idea, they preferred for the plots to be issued out in the state they had been left in, this was agreed at the last committee meeting.

- Wellbeing

The Council is trying to make the allotments a pleasant and tidy environment for all tenants to enjoy. The Council receive many telephone calls and emails from tenants complaining about their neighbouring plots with weeds etc.... therefore this is why the inspections are carried out. We have carried out allotment inspections for many years the only difference this year is the inspections are carried out by 1 person and not several, this the Council feel is the right thing to do as it gives continuity at all times.

- Appeal - can tenants appeal their eviction letters

As tenants have seen at tonight's meeting anyone who has written in to appeal their eviction letter, has been given the opportunity by members of the committee to consider their circumstances and a final decision has been made.

- Inspection Sheet – Can the Society have a copy

A copy of the inspection sheet is to be sent to the Allotment Society secretary.

- Inspection – Photographs

Taking photographs would be very time consuming and difficult as the person inspecting the plots is not the person writing the letters. The decision of the inspector is final.

- Skips

Skips were discontinued a couple of years ago because they were abused, household waste was put in the skips and not allotment waste. No budget has been allocated for skips this year. It is advised if tenants wish to have skips they are able to pay for them themselves.

EC.657

## **6. TO RECEIVE MANAGERS REPORT**

### **a) Northfield Park**

Part of the front fence at Northfield Park got damaged whilst the fair was in Blaby, the police caught the youths who caused the damage and requested they wrote a letter of apology to the Parish Council and both boys were to pay the Council £10 each towards the cost to replace the wooden slat.

A letter and £10 has been received from one youth and the police are chasing up the remaining one.

### **b) Hanging Baskets**

The lamppost baskets have been put up around the village this week and the hanging baskets will be put up next week.

**c) Free Holiday Sports Coaching**

After next week's sessions the next free holiday sports coaching sessions are planned to take place on Oakfield Park between Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July – Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July & Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> August – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> August.

This club is free of charge thanks to a National Lottery Community Grant achieved by Blaby Parish Council.

**d) Allotment Land**

Members discussed if to enquire about handing the allotments over to the Allotment Society for them to run.

**AGREED:** Add this item to the August / September committee agenda for further consideration.

EC.658

**7. TO CONSIDER BLABY CEMETERY**

Members have been issued with correspondence with regards to cemetery fees.

**a) York Family**

Members considered the request for Blaby parishioner fee to be charged for the interment of a family member who had lived in Blaby for a period of 6 years from 1969 and then for a further 5 years from 2013.

**DECLINED:** Members declined the request for Blaby parishioner fees for the York family.

**b) Turner Family**

Members considered the request for Blaby parishioner fees to be charged for the interment of a family member who had lived in Blaby from 1959 until 2015.

**DECLINED:** A vote was taken with the majority of 4/1 to decline the request for Blaby parishioner fees to be charged as the lady has been out of the area for more than 6 years.

**c) Removal of Gravestone**

Members have been issued with correspondence with regards to an accusation that the Parish Council have removed a headstone in the old Cemetery.

The family said they were most disappointed when they visited a few days ago when visiting their Great Grandparents grave to find the headstone has now disappeared, there was nothing left, they said the headstone has been taken away by our department which has caused the stress to their remaining relations that visit the old part of the cemetery.

The family have been reassured that under no circumstances would the Parish Council groundstaff remove a headstone.

If there is a headstone which is unsafe, it would be taped off and the family would be contacted and they would be asked to get it fixed by an approved memorial mason, under no circumstances would the Parish Council remove the headstone.

EC.659 **8. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FOR INDEPENDENT PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS**

Members considered the following quotations received for the Independent Annual Playground Inspections of Oakfield Park, Northfield Park, the Crescent Play Area and Beaver Park (Scouting Way) as follows:-

<u>Quotation 1</u>	<u>Quotation 2</u>	<u>Quotation 3</u>
Annual inspection fee: <u>£69.50 + VAT</u> (per site)  <b><u>Total = £278.00 + VAT</u></b>	One off annual inspection to each site, we have added a small discount for the 4 sites to be inspected together.  <b><u>Total = £560.00 + VAT</u></b>	Do not provide annual inspections, only operation inspections.

**RESOLVED:** Accept quotation 1 for the independent playground inspections of the Councils 4 parks at a total price of £278.00 + VAT.

EC.660 **9. TO CONSIDER THE HIRE OF NORTHFIELD PARK – TEQUILA CIRCUS**

An enquiry has been made from the Tequila Circus about the availability to hire Northfield Park from Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 – Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**DECLINE:** Members declined the request for the circus to hire Northfield Park due to the ground being too wet and the covid restrictions which are still in place.

EC.661 **10. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCILS ASSETS REGISTER**

All members are asked to consider the Estates & Community committee asset register.

**AGREED:** As this is a working document the manager has authority to make any amendments required during the year and submit it to the council's insurance company when necessary.

EC.662 **11. TO CONSIDER SUBSCRIPTIONS: -**

**a) Fields in Trust Membership Renewal**

The Fields in Trust annual membership renewal is due priced at £65.00.

**RESOLVED:** Renew the Fields in Trust annual membership priced at £65.00.

EC.663 **12. CORRESPONDENCE:-**

**a) Blaby Funfair Update**

At the last committee meeting members were informed about the anti-social behaviour and damage caused in the village due to the funfair being allowed to open.

A letter was sent to Blaby District Council and a reply has been received from the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager where she provided some background information about what plans had been put in place before and whilst the funfair was in Blaby.

Enquires were also made about what provisions are being put in place for the GlastonBlaby event which is to be held in August 2021, it is confirmed that the organisers are currently working closely with the Environmental Health & Licensing Teams to ensure that all the relevant paperwork and risk assessments are in place prior to the event. Covid Secure event guidance has been issued by central government which has also been provided for the organisers to work from.

EC.664

### **13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER ISSUE OF AGENDA**

#### **a) To Consider Northfield Park Art Project Designs**

At the April committee meeting members considered and agreed to the quotations received for artwork to be added to the toilet block on Northfield Park.

It was recommended that as the toilet block building was built in 1937 it conjured up visions of Art Deco patterns and typefaces.

Members were happy with this suggestion and wished to see some artwork before any work began.

**DECLINED:** Members do not like any of the suggested designs.

**AGREED:** Members wished for the artwork to be fun and bright, similar to the Oaks Community room on Oakfield Park.

#### **b) Canal Boat Service Study**

Planning Solutions Consulting have been appointed by Blaby District Council to look at some form of passenger tour boat service on the Grand Union Canal based along or using the stretch of Leicester Line of the canal running through the district.

They are keen to consult with key interested parties and to understand the views of the Parish Council.

A zoom meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 11am to discuss this project.

**AGREED:** Cllr Mrs Skeemer, Cllr Mr Akroyd & Cllr Mrs Broomhead will attend the zoom meeting.

EC.665

### **14. CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

Thank you all for attending and for your input in tonight's meeting.

**MEETING CLOSED: 9.05PM**