

**BLABY PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE ESTATES & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
Virtual Zoom Meeting Held at 7.00pm on  
Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 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) & 5 x Parishioners.

EC.632            **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies received.

EC.633            **2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR  
DISPENSATIONS 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 |
| Mr M Wareham    | Agenda Item 12 & 13 | Personal |

EC.634            **3. MANAGERS REPORT**

**a) The Crescent**

During the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> March the climbing frame dome at The Crescent play area was vandalised yet again. Each time the dome is replaced it costs the Council approx. £80.00.

**AGREED:** Members agreed not to replace the dome.

Play Unit

Complaints have been received regarding the youths sitting on top of the play equipment, playing loud music, and leaving lots of rubbish.

Members considered if the roof of the play unit could be removed to stop youths hanging around the park as they are only using the climbing frame as a shelter area.

**AGREED:** Contact the supplier of the climbing frame and if allowed and the stability of the frame will not be affected the ground staff are to remove the top section.

EC.635            **4. TO CONSIDER ENDERBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

**a) Bonfires**

Members have been issued with correspondence with regards to complaints received about tenants holding bonfires at the allotment.

It is reported that bonfires are only being held on the agreed days of Wednesday's & Sunday's.

**AGREED:** No changes are to be made to the rules & regulations about bonfires.

Tenants are concerned that a local resident is trespassing onto the allotments to confront them if they are having a bonfire.

**AGREED:** Write to the local resident informing him that he has no legal right to be on the allotment land and that the Council has a zero-tolerance behaviour and the same is expected by him. Tenants have been advised to call the police if he is seen trespassing on the allotment land in future.

#### **b) Allotment Inspections**

The first allotment inspection was carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 33 letters were sent out for plots requiring attention.

Cllr Mrs Broomhead thank Cllr Ms Bolton for carrying out a thorough allotment inspection.

Members have been issued with correspondence received from some allotment tenants who are not happy about receiving an inspection letter.

Some of the points raised in the inspection letters are:-

- Metal
- Rubbish
- Mesh sheets
- Weeds
- Broken Glass
- Cardboard

A couple of tenants explained they have only had their plots for a couple of months and members agreed that consideration would be taken into account but there would be no change to the way the inspections are carried out, tenants are advised if they do receive an inspection letter they are to write to the council and explain their issues and these will be considered by members of the committee as an individual case, this is the same situation if a tenant is ill, if the committee are made aware of the illness compassion can be given but a time scale would need to be arranged.

#### **c) Deposit**

Members considered if in future new tenants should pay a deposit which would be refunded when they left if their plot were left in a good condition. Consideration needs to be taken into account how much work is involved for the ground staff if they are having to clean and tidy all vacant plots.

**AGREED:** No changes are to be made at the present time, all new tenants are expected to take on their new plot no matter what condition it is in and it is their responsibility to dispose of any unwanted rubbish.

**d) Turning Circle**

On the day of the inspections there were 3 cars parked in the turning circle the whole time the inspection was taking place.

Our rules and regulations state ‘no vehicles are permitted past the shed. Any tenants that abuse this rule are liable for any damage caused’.

**AGREED:** Members of the committee will visit the allotments on an ad-hoc basis and if cars are parked in the turning circle these will be reported and if they are persistently parking there the owner will be evicted from the allotments.

**e) Plots**

All allotment plots are currently occupied. There is 1 Blaby parishioner and 38 non-parishioners on the allotment waiting list.

**f) Metal**

It appears that several plots have lots of metal on them and tenants are struggling to dispose of it.

**AGREED:** The manager will issue scrap metal contact numbers to the Chair of the Allotment Society who will be able to arrange collection of any unwanted metal. All unwanted scrap metal must be placed at the entrance of the car park and arrangements for collection of this metal will be via the Allotment Society.

**g) Rubbish**

Lots of rubbish had been dumped near to the gates of the allotments, the ground staff have removed this, but it is not the Councils responsibility to remove tenant’s allotment rubbish.

**h) Rules & Regulation**

When the allotment rent letters were sent out in December 2020, they also included 2 copies of the rules & regulations where 1 copy was due to be signed and returned to the council, currently we are still waiting on 33 tenants who have not returned their signed regulations.

EC.636

**5. TO CONSIDER EKOJOE**

**a) Allotment Green Event**

Ekojoe have reported they are making good progress with the community space and they have applied for a small grant to hold two love food hate waste days.

They are looking at bringing the van to the allotment for two dates during the summer holidays to encourage people on reducing waste. There will be an area for children to paint pots and plant, and an area to show how a compost system works.

**AGREED:** Members are happy for Ekojoe to hold two love food hate waste days during the Summer.

**b) Community Space**

Ekojoe have said that the Community space they started is doing really well, they have quite a few volunteers who are really enjoying helping transform the space.

They have turned over the whole area and made beds which are started to be planted. The shed has had a new roof and new felt, so is now watertight. They have a wormy and are soon to add the solar panel.

The group of volunteers have asked if Ekojoe could take on more space?

**AGREED:** Members are happy for Ekojoe to have another plot; their details are to be added to the allotment waiting list.

EC.637

**6. TO REPORT & CONSIDER ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

**Northfield Park – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

During the Easter weekend (early April) there were issues where large groups of youths were gathering in parks, particularly Northfield Park, which led the police to issue a dispersal order.

Due to this there will be increased presence/patrols. Also IMPACT youth workers will be attending the locations at various dates and times.

**Northfield Park – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Blaby District Councils Community Safety & Prevention Team Leader has emailed to say:

Further to the ASB issues we have been experiencing at parks in Blaby, I am looking for Blaby District Council to commission some free sport activities via IMPACT Youth Workers and would really like to use Northfield Park to host this? We have successfully held these sessions at Northfield Park in the past and are hoping the diversionary activities will assist to address the ASB.

**AGREED:** The Parish Council would be more than happy to allow the IMPACT team to use Northfield Park for these free sports sessions.

EC.638

**7. TO CONSIDER THE CRESCENT PLAY AREA – ERECTION OF A FENCE**

On Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 it was reported that a resident of The Crescent had erected a high fence at the rear of his garden, and he had also encroached on to the Parish Council's land.

A letter was sent to the resident stating he had encroached approx. 1 metre in length on to the Parish Council land of The Crescent Play Area and was asked to remove it.

As of today, members have been informed the new fence has been removed and the resident's original fence is back in situ.

EC.639

**8. TO REPORT UPDATE ON THE NORTHFIELD PARK PROJECT**

At the March 2021 Estates & Community committee meeting members agreed they wished to start gaining ideas for the Northfield Park project. The project was added to the Government contract finder website and 9 companies have showed an interest in working on this project.

**AGREED:** Due to the workload this project will consist of and as the manager is currently the only member of office staff this project is to be put on hold for a few months.

**AGREED:** Add this item to a future Estates & Community committee agenda for further consideration.

EC.640

**9. TO CONSIDER TREE WOTKS AT LATIMER CLOSE**

Due to complaints received from residents a site meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March with Leicestershire County Council Forestry Team who has provided the following quotations.

| Quotation 1  | Quotation 2                               | Quotation 3  | Quotation 4                                       | Quotation 5   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Reduce the conifer hedge on the western boundary (to the left as you approach from Latimer close) to Approx. the same height as the ones on the other side | Fell the conifers on the western boundary | Stump grind the felled trees on the western boundary | Fell the conifer hedge along the eastern boundary | Stump grind the felled trees along the eastern boundary |
| <b>Total £615.00</b>   | <b>Total £1,026.00</b>                    | <b>Total £410.00</b>                                 | <b>Total £1,180.00</b>                            | <b>Total £410.00</b>                                    |

**RESOLVED:** Accept quotation numbers 2 & 4 for the fell of conifers on the Western & Eastern boundary at a total cost of £2,206.00 + VAT.

EC.641

**10. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCILS HIRE AGREEMENTS – PARKS**

All members have been issued with a copy of the Council park hire agreements.

**AGREED:** No amendments are to be made to either the commercial or charity hire agreements.

EC.642

**11. TO CONSIDER THE HIRE OF OAKFIELD PARK – LSH DOG SHOW**

Leicester Sight Hounds have requested to hire Oakfield Park on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 for their annual show.

**RESOLVED:** Accept the Leicester Sight Hounds request to high Oakfield Park on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, covid restrictions allowing, issue the organisation with the relevant documentation and park hire agreement forms.

EC.643

**12. TO RE-CONSIDER THE CCTV QUOTATIONS FOR THE CEMETERY**

At a previous Estates & Community committee meeting it was approved to accept a CCTV quotation for the Cemetery priced at £8,120.00 + VAT.

Since this quotation was accepted the council has been working with a different CCTV company and a further quotation for the works has been submitted: -

| <b>New - Cemetery CCTV Quotation</b>  |
|---|
| Install CCTV to cover main areas, there will be an eight channel NVR recorder with 4TB harddrive.<br><br>Three 4mp bullet cameras with motorised lens and 60 m IR.<br><br>The cameras will be mounted on a 5metre pole to be as discreet as possible but to cover a large area of the Cemetery. |
| <b>Total - £1,900.00 + VAT</b>  |

**RESOLVED:** Accept the revised quotation for the CCTV to be installed at Blaby Cemetery priced at £1,900.00 + VAT. As previously agreed, the funds are to be taken from the EMR – Cemetery Development account.

**RESOLVED:** All groundworks are to be carried out by the Council's ground staff.

**RESOLVED:** All mains electric works will incur additional costs; an electrician will need to supply and install a fused spur ceiling height above the fuse board and a double socket.

Cllr Mr Wareham did not vote on this agenda item.

EC.644

**13. TO CONSIDER QUOTATION RECEIVED FOR CEMETERY ALARM SYSTEM**

All members have been issued with a quotation to install an alarm system in the Cemetery Chapel, the alarm will have a master blaster fitted high in the area to give off audible warning.

**RESOLVED:** Accept the quotation received to supply and install an alarm at the Cemetery Chapel priced at £900.00 + VAT.

Cllr Mr Wareham did not vote on this agenda item.

EC.645

**14. TO CONSIDER NORTHFIELD PARK ART PROJECT QUOTATION**

Members considered the quotations received for artwork to be added to the toilet block and tunnels on Northfield Park.

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

The price for the toilet block is:-

- Full wrap: £3,900
- Two sides: £2,800

**RESOLVED:** Accept the quotation of £3,900 for a full wrap around on the toilet block.

**AGREED:** Members would like to see some artwork before the work begins.

Painting the tunnels inclusive of design and materials would be approx. £950.00.

**DECLINE:** Members feel the tunnels look clean and tidy and do not require any artwork added.

EC.646

### 15. TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS FOR A STIHL PETROL BLOWER

A replacement petrol blower is required, members are issued with the following quotations for consideration: -

| <u>Quotation 1</u>   | <u>Quotation 2</u>   | <u>Quotation 3</u>   |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Stihl BG86C-E Blower | Stihl BG86C-E Blower | Stihl BG86C-E Blower |
| <b>£205.20 + VAT</b> | <b>£220.84 + VAT</b> | <b>£233.70 + VAT</b> |

**RESOLVED:** Accept quotation number 1 for the purchase of a Stihl BG86C-E Petrol Blower priced at £205.20 + VAT.

EC.647

### 16. TO CONSIDER 2021 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

All members have been issued with a draft proposal and quotations for Blaby Parish Councils 2021 Christmas Light Switch on Event.

To deliver a virtual event = £4,500.00 + VAT

To deliver a physical event = £10,000.00 + VAT

The proposal presents an outline of options, which if agreed we could explore in more detail once we have a firmer idea of parameters around the budget.

If the go ahead is approved, a meeting would be scheduled to kick off the process of finalising plans.

**RESOLVED:** Accept the quotation to deliver a virtual event priced at £4,500.00 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** Accept the quotation to deliver a physical event priced at £10,000.00 + VAT.

**AGREED:** A cut-off date due to covid for the cancellation of the of the physical event is to be agreed between both parties.

**AGREED:** A meeting is to be arranged between the events company and the manager.

EC.648            **17. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED WITH REGARDS TO A LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

At the February Estates & Community committee meeting members were informed of a solicitor's letter which was received on behalf of a local funeral director.

The Council had previously agreed to not allow a local funeral director to use Blaby Cemetery due to the funeral director's previous unethical behaviour.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 a further letter has been received from the funeral directors' solicitors.

**AGREED:** Reply to the solicitor stating the committee do not intend to lift the sanction as the Council is supporting a claim against the funeral director with the National Federation of Funeral Directors.

EC.649            **18. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Public Space Bins & Blaby District Council Cleansing**

Members have been issued with correspondence from Blaby District Councils Waste Operations Manager who has confirmed the recent approval of a new District Council policy for 'Public Space Bins and District Cleansing'. The policy was approved by councillors on March 17<sup>th</sup> and will be formally implemented on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The policy clarifies the long-standing duties and responsibilities of the District Cleansing Service, but also outlines the introduction of dual waste bins in public spaces maintained by the District Council.

Dual waste bins enable members of the public to dispose of both litter and dog waste in the same container.

**b) Engaging with Volunteers**

Correspondence has been received from Blaby District Councils Parks & Open Spaces Engagement Officer stating that part of his role is to facilitate volunteer opportunities within our open space and work closely with Parish Councils helping with and creating volunteer opportunities.

Blaby District Council are looking for a fresh approach with volunteers and want to create opportunities across all their strategic sites working with existing volunteers and partners and welcoming new ways of working in partnership.

**AGREED:** Members do not currently have any ideas on how to combine forces but will contact the District Council in the future if they do have any.



**c) National Lottery Community Grant - Free Holiday Sports Coaching**

All members have been issued with a copy of the Free Holiday Sports Coaching flyer; this club is free of charge from a grant achieved by the Parish Council from the National Lottery Community grant fund.

The event is taking place on Oakfield Park from Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> June from 09.30am – 15.30pm.

87 applications for places for the half term holiday club have already been received.

Dates for the next free club is:-

- Monday 26th July - Friday 30th July
- Monday 9th August - Friday 13th August.

EC.650

**19. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER ISSUE OF AGENDA**

**a) Blaby Fun Fair - ASB**

Correspondence has been received from residents with regards to the anti-social behaviour and damage caused in the village due to the fair being allowed to open in Glen Parva.

Blaby District Council and the police have been heavily involved with trying to resolve these issues.

**AGREED:** Write to Blaby District Council and the Police with the councils concerns about why the fun fair was allowed to open whilst the covid restrictions are still in place and enquire what plans are going to be put in place for the planned August 21<sup>st</sup> GlastonBlaby event which is due to be held on the same site as the fun fair, will additional police presence be put in place for GlastonBlaby and what covid restrictions will also be put in place.

**b) Northfield Park – ASB**

Over the weekend there has been some anti-social behaviour damage to the front fence at Northfield Park. The ground staff will fix this as soon as possible.

**c) Unacceptable ASB**

Members have been copied into a letter received from a local resident which has been sent to Mr Alberto Costa MP with regards to the unacceptable anti-social behaviour which is happening in Blaby.

In the letter the resident mentioned about the measures which were put in place in Countesthorpe a few years ago where groups of no more than 3 teenagers/youths were allowed to congregate, members feel this should be introduced in Blaby.

**AGREED:** Acknowledge the letter from the local resident and confirm the committee support the comments made in the letter and ask that all residents keep calling the police every time there are any issues.

**AGREED:** Write to the local police and ask if the special measures of no more than 3 teenagers/youths be allowed to congregate around Blaby could be implemented.

**c) Scarecrow Festival**

An enquiry has been made whether the Parish Council is running a Scarecrow Festival this year.

Members confirmed no plans have been made for a Scarecrow Festival for this year but feel the matter could be considered at a later stage.

**AGREED:** Add this item to a future agenda for members consideration to run a Scarecrow Festival in September 2021.

EC.651

**20. CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

Thank you all for attending.

**MEETING CLOSED: 9.08PM**