

**BLABY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE ESTATES & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Virtual Zoom Meeting Held at 7.00pm on
Tuesday, 25th August 2020**

PRESENT: Mr M Wareham (Chairman),
Ms L Bolton, Mrs M Broomhead, Mrs S McFadden, Mrs S Skeemer, Mr R Woolley,
Miss L Withers (Assistant Manager), Mrs V Jepson (Manager) & 1 Parishioner.

EC.549 **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence are received from Cllr Mr P Akroyd and Cllr Mr P Muton, the reasons for which are approved.

EC.550 **2. 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
Mrs S Skeemer	Burial Rights	Personal

EC.551 **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Travellers

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 18th August the Parish Council were informed of a live incident involving a group of travellers who arrived at the Vipers Rugby Club from Coalville. Police were in the process of moving them on and the Ground Staff ensured that all Parish Council owned land was secure.

Replacement Play Equipment

It was reported at the last Estates and Community committee meeting that a new zipwire seat needed to be sourced for Oakfield Park. We received a quote of £287.28 + VAT but the office staff managed to find a replacement for £55.00 + VAT.

Cemetery – Compliment

The Parish Council have received an email complimenting the Ground Staff on the upkeep of the cemetery.

EC.552 **3. TO CONSIDER ENDERBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

a) Inspections

The last allotment inspection saw 11 letters sent out.

Members considered when the next allotment inspection should take place.

AGREED: The next allotment inspection will be held at 9am on Saturday, 12th September and will be carried out by Cllr Mr Wareham, Cllr Mrs Broomhead, Cllr Mr R Woolley, Cllr Mrs McFadden and Cllr Mrs Skeemer.

b) Plots

There are currently 5 parishioners and 22 non-parishioners on the allotment waiting list for an allotment plot. There will be 2 vacant plots in two weeks' time.

c) Allotment Inspections Complaint

Members received an email of complaint from an allotment tenant regarding the standard in which the allotment inspections are carried out. The allotment tenant does not believe that the inspectors have enough knowledge to carry out the inspections.

AGREED: Members feel that this is an isolated complaint and no further action is to be taken at present.

d) Allotment Inspection Appeals

Members considered two appeal letters from tenants that had received notice to quit their plots.

AGREED: Members were happy to accept the reasons behind their appeal letters and continue with their plots.

e) Damaged Fence

At the last Estates and Community committee meeting, it was reported that four youths damaged the allotment fence. The Ground Staff have rectified the fence by adding boarding, mesh panelling and anti-vandal paint. They have also attached anti-vandal paint posters to the fence.

f) Trespassers

Members received correspondence from the Secretary of the Blaby & District Allotments & Gardens society regarding trespassers entering the allotments.

AGREED: Allotment tenants are advised to call the Police if they see trespassers in future. Posters will be displayed at the allotments, asking all tenants to ensure that the gate is locked at all times.

g) Allotment Competition 2020

Members considered if they wanted to run the Allotment Competition 2020 this year.

AGREED: Members agreed that the competition will not run this year as it is too late in the year to do so.

h) Hand Sanitiser Request

Members considered a request from an allotment tenant to install hand sanitising stations at the allotments.

AGREED: Members do not feel that this option is feasible at present.

i) Bullying Report

Members received a report of bullying allegations at the allotments.

AGREED: Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the tenant in question, outlining the Parish Council's zero tolerance to bullying with authority to give notice to quit, should this continue.

EC.553 **5. TO CONSIDER CHRISTMAS 2020**

Members were informed about a lack of communication from Iceland regarding a power supply for the Christmas lights and considered how they wished to proceed with plans for the Christmas Light Switch On and Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve.

AGREED: Members do not wish to proceed with any events for Christmas 2020 but agreed that the lights will still be switched on, on Friday, 27th November.

AGREED: The manager will contact Iceland to make them aware that without their power source, they will not be able to have lights put on their building. The manager will also meet with the electrical contractor to discuss possible options for the Christmas lights in the precinct.

EC.554 **6. TO REPORT UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SPACE – EKO JOE**

A Zoom meeting took place with Eko Joe on Thursday, 14th August to discuss what they were seeking for their Community Interest Company and how the Parish Council can assist them in achieving their goals.

AGREED: Members agreed for Cllr Mr M Wareham to meet with Eko Joe at the allotments on Saturday, 12th September, to discuss them using some allotment space and to find out if this would work for the Parish Council and Eko Joe.

EC.555 **7. TO REPORT UPDATE ON GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD APPLICATION**

The Parish Council applied for the Green Flag Community Award in January 2020 with judging to take place in the summer. Due to Covid-19, the judging was postponed. Members received correspondence to say that the judging will now take place on Thursday, 27th August 2020.

AGREED: Cllr Mrs S Skeemer and a member of the ground staff team will attend the judging.

EC.556 **8. TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF NEW GROUND STAFF EQUIPMENT**

The ground staff have reported that the generator does not support the concrete breaker that was purchased in November 2019. Members considered how they would like to proceed with this issue.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the purchase of a new generator and have given the Manager delegated powers to seek three quotes and purchase the most cost-effective quote.

EC.557 **9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER ISSUE OF AGENDA**

a) Barker's Fun Fair

Barker's Fun Fair is due to arrive in Blaby on 1st October until 11th October. They have full risk assessments in place and hope that the Parish Council will support them at this difficult time.

b) Walking Market

There has been a lot of interest surrounding Blaby holding a walking market.

Cllr Mr M Wareham would like the Parish Council to get on board with a Blaby Walking Market and offer support and advertising when arrangements have been made.

EC.558

10. CHAIRMAN'S TIME.

Thank you all for attending.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:17PM