

**BLABY PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE ESTATES & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
To Be Held in the Oakfield Room, Blaby Civic Centre  
at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Wareham (Chairman),  
Mr Akroyd, Ms L Bolton, Mrs M Broomhead, Mrs S McFadden, Ms M Grant,  
Mrs S Skeemer, Mrs S Clifton (Deputy Manager) & Mrs V Jepson (Manager).

EC.847            **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.**

EC.848            **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
Mrs S Skeemer	Burial Rights	Personal

EC.849            **3. TO CONSIDER ENDERBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

**a) Plot 7 West Update**

Thanks to Cllr Wareham for dismantling the shed from plot 7 West, the ground staff disposed of the shed, green house, and rubbish at Whetstone tip from plot 7 West at a cost of £62.70, this expenditure cost will be added to the 'maintenance of allotments' account.

**b) Allotment 2023 Rent**

The following two proposals are put forward for the 2023 rent and a vote is taken for each option:-

Option 1 – Percentage increase – 6 votes for yes and 1 vote for no

Option 2 - £10 increase per plot size – 1 vote for yes and 6 votes for no

**RESOLVED:-** The following annual rent fees are agreed for 2023:-

- 400 sq. yards - £83.00
- 300 sq. yards - £63.00
- 200 sq. yards - £43.00
- 150 sq. yards - £32.00
- Allotment Hut - £20.00
- Non-parishioner Surcharge - £20.00

**c) Allotment Member Insurance**

A vote is taken and approved by all 7 members for annual allotment insurance to be added to each plot priced at £4.00.

**RESOLVED:** Allotment insurance of £4 per plot is to be added to every plot this is to be paid with the allotment rent.

**d) Rules & Regulations Signed Documents**

All members considered the current allotment rules & regulations.

**AGREED:** No amendments or additions are to be made to the allotment rules and regulations.

**e) Damaged Fence**

The fence at the rear of plots 11 & 12 has been removed.

**AGREED:** Members do not wish to replace the fence at the rear of plots 11 & 12.

EC.850

**4. TO RECEIVED MANAGERS REPORT**

**a) Northfield Park**

Japanese knotweed has appeared to be growing through a fence at the top of Northfield Park, it is on the land at the back of the house near to the alleyway.

Leicestershire County Council have passed this enquire onto their Environmental Maintenance team for further investigation.

**AGREED:** Await the response from Leicestershire County Council with regards to any further action to be taken.

**b) The Crescent**

Back in June 2022 it was reported a resident of The Crescent had cut a hole in their rear garden fence which leads directly onto The Crescent Play area, at the time the committee wrote to the resident requesting the hole was covered as their dog was allowed to roam freely on the park and is a nuisance to children whilst they are playing on the park, at the time the resident called the office and said they were replacing the fence panel without a hole.

On further investigation it has been noted that the hole is still in the fence but there is now a latch on the gate to allow the resident to open and close the gate.

**AGREED:** Write to the resident again requesting that a new fence panel is erected within the next 2 weeks.

**AGREED:** The ground staff are to erect 2 steaks at the back gate, so the resident is unable to open it directly onto the play area.

**AGREED:** If the replacement fence panel has not been installed after the 2 weeks' notice period, the ground staff are to erect a chain link fence which will run the whole away across the resident's fence panel.

**c) Lamppost Poppies**

The lamppost poppies will be put up week commencing the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

**d) Winter Planters**

The village planters will be planted with winter pansies week commencing the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

EC.851

## **5. TO REPORT UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS 2022**

### **Test Certificate for Catenary wires across Johns Court Blaby**

The catenary wires across Johns Court has been tested and the contractor said he is pleased to confirm they completed the pull-out tests with no problem. The relevant test certificate has been received and filed.

### **Wall Plate Testing**

A pull test on a sample of the wall plates used for the Christmas trees has been carried out, and a few have been found inadequate.

**AGREED:** Considering the findings, the remaining holders are to be inspected and during the inspection to treat all the holders with black rust inhibitor.

### **Cost Implications**

**RESOLVED:** The Christmas Decorators will pay for all the testing, including what has already been carried out, but there will be a cost to the Parish Council for any remedial work and any replacement necessary.

The Parish Council does have 7 additional black wall plates which will be used to avoid unnecessary expenditure. The work will be completed before the main installation.

### **To Consider Waste Collection**

Members have been issued with two quotations for waste removal at the Christmas light switch on event:-

#### Quotation 1

For an additional operator on Saturday to help clear the extra waste created would be £141.94 + VAT.

#### Quotation 2

To hire 2 x 240ltr bins at a cost of £72.89 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** Accept quotation number 1 for the hire of a cleaner on the Saturday morning after the light switch on event at a cost of £141.94 + VAT.

EC.852

## **6. TO CONSIDER BLABY ROTARY CLUB BULB PLANTING REQUEST**

This item has been asked to be added by Cllr Mrs Broomhead and the Rotary Club

**AGREED:** No further action is to be taken as no report has been received from the rotary club.

EC.853

## **7. TO CONSIDER BLABY CEMETERY**

### **Installation of the Cemetery Memorial Tree**

The Memorial tree has been installed and the cobbled border will be completed with a black ice decorative stone.

**AGREED:** The boarder is to be extended by approx. 18” to allow people to walk around the tree on the stones rather than on the grass.

**AGREED:** The decorative stones are not to go above the steel works as members wish for the steel to be on display.

### **Stepping Stones**

**AGREED:** Steppingstones are to be added from the path up to the decorative stones this will allow people to walk to the tree safely and not walk on the grass.

### **Leaves**

The leaf branches are marked A – P with 15 leaves per branch, anybody purchasing a leaf can choose their chosen branch and leaf whilst there is availability, a map of the leaves is held in the Civic Centre office.

### **Bench Location**

**AGREED:** The bench is to be installed in the left-hand corner of the peace meadow.

### **Grand Opening**

**AGREED:** The tree is to be named ‘Forget U Not Tree’.

**RESOLVED:** A plaque is to be purchased stating the name of the tree, this will be unveiled at the unveiling of the tree.

**AGREED:** A date is to be confirmed for the unveiling of the tree, once all the groundwork has been completed.

**AGREED:** The chairman of the Parish Council is to unveil the ‘Forget U Not Tree’.

### **The “Forget You Not” Post Box**

**RESOLVED:** The ‘Forget You Not’ letter box has been ordered at a cost of £63.49, inclusive of VAT and delivery.

### **Wildflower Seeds**

**RESOLVED:** 300 x biodegradable seed packets with recycled paper inside and wildflower seeds have been ordered at a cost of £240.00 + VAT.

**AGREED:** The seed packets are to be sold at £3.00 per packet.

### **Wildflower Garden**

**AGREED:** The area to the right of the ‘Forget U Not’ tree is to be made into the wildflower garden area.

**AGREED:** A small wooden picket fence is to be installed to keep the wildflower area separate to the grassed area.

**RESOLVED:** Purchase timber edging for the wildflower area.

**AGREED:** The letter box is to be erected near to the path of the wildflower area.

### **Memorial Stones 1**

A family have placed a memorial stone and slab on a cremation plot without permission, this memorial is not made from granite or marble but is made of plastic and not-natural stone.

The family have been asked to remove the stone as they did not have permission to erect it, they did not remove the stone in the timescale given so the ground staff have, the memorial is in safe keeping ready for the family to collect it at their earliest convenience.

### **Memorial Stones 2**

A stonemason has received a request to fix a memorial that is made from reconstituted man-made material. At the start of the initial enquiry, the family informed the Council the memorial wedge was hand made from cultured granite and would sit on a slate slab, this is not the case.

**DECLINE:** Decline this request as only natural materials may be used for memorial stones at Blaby Cemetery.

### **Rules & Regulations**

Members considered the current cemetery rules and regulations.

**AGREED:** The following is to be added to the current rules and regulations: -

- Only memorial stones made by natural materials such as granite, slate and marble will be allowed to be erected at Blaby Cemetery
- Memorials can only be erect by an approved stone mason once Blaby Parish Council have approved a permit to the approved stone mason
- Any current rules and regulations supersede any other cemetery rules and regulations
- Each leaf will include a personalised inscription and a licence for 10 years. After the 10-year licence period expires the leaf will be removed from the tree and the family will be requested to collect it.

### **Cemetery Extension**

Enquiries are being made with the UK's leading consultancy, specialising in Cemetery and Crematorium Development, Open Space Design and Environmental Solutions with regards to the development of the cemetery extension.

They have reviewed our area and will put together a schedule of works and associated timescales for a planning application pack for the cemetery extension area.

**AGREED:** Members are happy to continue to research the Cemetery extension project and seek quotations for the necessary works.

**Care of the Cemetery**

Members have been issued with a compliment email received from a visitor to Blaby Cemetery, praising the high standard of work and how lovely the cemetery looks and what a pleasure it is to speak to the ground staff.

EC.854

**8. TO RECEIVE & CONSIDER ANNUAL INDEPENDENT PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT**

All members have been issued with a copy of the senior ground man's report regarding the independent playground inspections for the following parks: -

- Northfield Park
- Oakfield Park
- The Crescent Play Area
- Scouting Way

**AGREED:** A meeting is to be held with the Senior grounds man to request a more in-depth report is issued.

**AGREED:** Add this item to a future committee agenda for members update and consideration.

EC.855

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

**a) Remembrance Sunday**

Mr Johnson has asked if the Parish Councils grounds staff would be able to cut back some of the lower small branches around the memorial site before the Remembrance Sunday event.

**AGREED:** Members are happy for the Councils ground staff to cut back some of the small branches in time for the Remembrance Service in November

**b) Cost of Living Event**

All members have been issued with correspondence received from the Local Area Coordinator and Blaby District Council with regards to an event they are holding about sharing information for residents who are concerned about the cost of living and staying warm this winter.

The event is being held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Blaby Library, 10am – 1pm.

EC.856

**10. CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

Thank you all for attending.

**MEETING CLOSED: 8.04PM**