

**BLABY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE ESTATES & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
To Be Held in the Oakfield Room, Blaby Civic Centre
at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 24th January 2023**

PRESENT: Mr M Wareham (Chairman),
Mr P Akroyd, Ms L Bolton, Mrs M Broomhead, Ms M Grant, Mrs S Skeemer,
Mrs S Clifton (Deputy Manager) Mrs V Jepson (Manager) & 2 Parishioners.

EC.872 **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.**

EC.873 **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.874 **3. TO CONSIDER ENDERBY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

a) Update on Allotment Tenants

Allotment renewal agreements were posted to all tenants between the 30th November and 1st December informing the tenants “No renewal will be agreed until both the signed Tenancy Agreement and full payment is received” these would need to be received by the 27th January 2023, if after this date there is a need to chase for payment or documents an administration charge of £25.00 would be applied. So far:

- 9 tenants have failed to return their agreements and pay their rent.
- 13 tenants have paid their rent but have not returned their agreement.
- 6 plots are now vacant and ready to be reallocated.

Notices have been put on the gate and shed as a reminder that tenants still need to return all the documentation.

It is agreed members of the Allotment Society will put a post on their Facebook page reminding tenants of the above matters.

b) Car Park Complaints

It has been asked by a tenant what is happening with the car park? It has been suggested that several 3-foot soak aways should be dug and then filled with shingle.
DECLINED: Members are unable to do any works on the car park as the land is not owned by the Parish Council.

c) Allotment Issue

On Monday, 23rd January 2023 a tenant reported that several items had been taken from both his shed and greenhouse by members of another plot.

A rumour had circulated the tenant had taken ill and had passed away leaving the plot empty. A volunteer from the allotments took it upon himself to remove items from the plot without checking if he was allowed to do so or if the rumour was true.

The tenant has accepted an apology for the misunderstanding and doesn't wish for any further action to be taken by the Parish Council.

Members considered item number 2 from the zero tolerance section of the allotment rules and regulations which states, *tenants shall not enter onto any other plot at any time without the express permission of the plot holder* and agreed that as the allotment tenant is happy to accept the apology as it was a misunderstanding the Parish Council do not wish to take this matter any further.

AGREED: It is to be reiterated to all volunteers that nobody should enter or remove anything from any other plot without official approval from the Parish Council.

AGREED: Members of the Allotment Society is to add a post to their Facebook page stating that nobody should enter or remove any items from plots that are not their's unless they have official approval from Blaby Parish Council.

EC.875

4. TO RECEIVED MANAGERS REPORT

a) The Crescent - Fence

In November it was reported a wooden stake had been placed against the hole in the fence but during December this had been sawn off so a metal pole and chain link fence has now been erected and a further letter has been sent to the resident requesting that these are not to be removed or damaged otherwise they will be reported to the police for criminal damage.

b) Dogs on Parks

Due to the recent dog attacks which have been happening members considered if dogs shouldn't be allowed on certain areas of the Council owned recreation areas;

RESOLVED: Purchase "No Dogs Allowed" signs for the following areas:-

- The Crescent – No Dogs are allowed on the whole park
- Oakfield Park – No Dogs allowed in the fenced play area
- Northfield Park – No Dogs allowed in the fenced play area
- Scouting Way – No Dogs allowed in the fenced play area

c) The Crescent - Hedge

The front hedge at The Crescent park has been cut down by the ground staff to a level which gives visible access to people walking by the park.

d) Latimer Close

The new picnic bench has been installed at Latimer Close.

e) Cemetery Peace Meadow Fence

Over the Christmas holidays part of the fence around Peace Meadow had fallen due to some of the fence posts being rotten, all the fence posts have now been replaced by the ground staff.

EC.876

5. TO CONSIDER ARRANGING A SITE MEETING DATE FOR OAKFIELD PARK – GREEN FLAG AWARD

At the January 2023 full Council meeting members agreed to arrange a site visit date to Oakfield Park to consider whether to purchase a 'Welcome to Oakfield Park' sign and whether an insect house would be suitable for the park.

AGREED: A site visit is to be held at Oakfield Park on Sunday, 12th February 2023 at 10.30am.

AGREED: Members would like to see samples of re-cycled plastic park signs for the park entrance.

EC.877

6. TO CONSIDER 2023 SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Members are asked if they would be interesting in working again with Finding Fitness to put on a summer Holiday club at Oakfield Park, this activity will be funded by the National Lottery.

Finding Fitness are looking to pool their resources and team up with another coaching provider called Football and Fitness.

It is suggested to run three weeks, so a total of grant application of £5,400 is to be applied for, the holiday club will only be possible on a successful lottery funding application, and without it, there will be no event.

AGREED: Members are happy to work with Finding Fitness and Football and Fitness for the 2023 Summer holiday club.

RESOLVED: Apply to the National Lottery for grant funding of £5,400 to cover the full cost of the summer holiday club.

RESOLVED: A £200 key bond is to be taken.

EC.878

7. TO CONSIDER BLABY CEMETERY EXTENSION

At the November committee meeting it was agreed to appoint The CDS Group for the new cemetery extension project.

16th December 2022

CDS have received the approval for the Stage 1&2 works from the Parish Council and they have commissioned all the works.

CDS scheduled the Tier 2 Groundwater Assessment for the 6th January 2023, this is an intrusive exercise which would leave the site with some minor soil damage.

22nd December 2022

Members have been issued with the following documents:

- Utilities Plan
- Location Plan
- Topographical Survey
- A client design brief questionnaire which is required to be completed by members at the meeting due to be held on the 24th January 2023

4th January 2023

Members have been issued with an indicative block plan for the cemetery extension, members are asked if the block plan meets their requirements.

CDS has identified a ditch on the eastern boundary, the EA guidelines as of April 22', stipulate that burials are not permissible within 30m of any ditch line, therefore this has decreased our burial numbers on site. We can however allow for ash internments in this area, it is only full burials which are not allowed.

AGREED: The following amendments are required to be made to the block plan:-

- Area A is not to be used as a burial section
- It is proposed that Area A has the following, in place of burials:-
 - Install a memorial sculpture, a different type to the 'Forget U Not Tree', maybe a Teardrop Waterfall with glass droplets (members have been issued with photographs of the teardrop waterfall sculpture which is currently priced at between £9,900 - £12,870 + VAT)
 - Have a scattering of ashes area
 - Have a Children & Baby section (maybe with a small picket fence so it's a private area)
 - Have a scattering of pet's ashes area
 - Have a natural burial area
- Do not plant the 4 x proposed trees along the internal pathways

AGREED: Members completed the client design brief; this is to be returned to The CDS Group.

EC.879

8. TO CONSIDER SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

a) The National Allotment Society Membership Renewal

All members have been issued with the renewal notice for the National Allotment Society priced at £66.00.

RESOLVED: Renew the National Allotment Society annual membership which is priced at £66.00.

EC.880

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER ISSUE OF AGENDA

a) Park Benches Gravel Grids

240 gravel grids have been ordered to be placed under all park benches, these will be in keeping with the parks than concrete slabs. Currently the grids are on offer and are priced at £3.00 each which is half their original price.

RESOLVED: Purchase 240 gravel grids at a total price of £720.00, these are to be placed at the foot of all park benches.

b) Blaby Fun Fair

Barkers Fun Fair have asked if they could hire Oakfield Park car park as they have done in the past for their fun fair, as previously they will have a couple of small caravans on the corner of the grass under the trees.

The dates to enter the car park would be:-

- Wednesday morning of the 22nd March to set up the rides for the fair to open on Thursday, 23rd March and Friday, 24th March from 6pm - 9pm then on Saturday, 25th March from 2pm - 9pm and Sunday, 2pm - 6pm
- After 6pm the fair will leave the park on the Sunday evening after taking down the rides so it will all be clear by Monday morning for the Council to use as normal.

AGREED: Only the car park area can be used for the fair rides, caravans and vehicles can be situated on the grassed area as per 2022

RESOLVED: The following fees are to be charged: -

- Barrier Key Bond - £100.00
- Park Bond - £500.00
- No use of electricity is permitted.
- Charge £200.00 per day, totalling £1,000.00 for this year's fun fair on Oakfield Park

AGREED: Contact the football teams and request that any games are to be re-scheduled for the above dates.

c) Circus Cortex

The Parish Council have been contacted by Circus Cortex regarding the possibility of visiting Northfield Park, Blaby.

The Circus was started in 2021 as an idea to bring the high quality and production values of a big City show to different venues that wouldn't normally have this opportunity and in a very small intimate performance space.

They regard their show as a very different type of circus to anything currently here in the UK and they are very proud of their short History.

They need an area of 50 x 70 metres, and the setup is totally self-contained apart from a water supply.

Tentative dates would be:-

- Thursday, 25th May to Sunday, 4th June 2023 or
- Thursday, 8th June to Monday, 19th June 2023

Their first production was entitled '*Glory*' and showcased the street arts as its central theme and the current show '*Warriors*' which has turned out to be very apt for their majority Ukrainian cast who they managed to help bring a little normality back into their lives and escape from the war.

Members have been issued with lots of information from their website with reviews, comments, cast details etc. They have public liability insurance up to £10 million, full event management plans and risk assessments in place.

AGREED: Members are happy for the Circus Cortex to hire Northfield Park for either of the above dates.

RESOLVED: The following fees are to be charged: -

- Barrier Key Bond - £100.00
- Park Bond - £500.00
- No use of electricity is permitted.
- Charge £200.00 per day

AGREED: Contact the football teams and request that any games are re-scheduled for the chosen circus dates.

EC.881

10. CHAIRMAN'S TIME

Thank you all for attending.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.00PM