

BLABY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING HELD AT
THE OAKS COMMUNITY ROOMS, OAKFIELD PARK
TUESDAY, 4TH APRIL 2023 AT 7PM

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

The Chairman welcomed everybody present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absences are received and accepted from Cllr Miss Small, Cllr Mr Wareham & Cllr Ms Grant the reasons for which are approved.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman, read out her Annual Report of the Parish Council:-

Hello, everyone, it is so nice to see you all, and thank you for attending our annual village meeting.

Although the pandemic is almost over, and life has returned to normality with the Parish Council, we are back to face-to-face meetings. Parish Councillors are all volunteers, and I would like to thank them for their efforts and input with the Village.

I must acknowledge the invaluable support of the Parish Council Manager whose workload has only increased as more responsibilities are shuffled down the local authority. Thanks are given to all of our staff, and I am pleased to announce that our Administration Assistant has been promoted to Deputy Manager.

In May, The Parish Council mourned the passing of the Queen, a book of condolences was available for Parishioners to sign at the Civic Centre and a wreath was laid at the Lutterworth Road War Memorial.

Street Furniture

Blaby District Council completed their Town Centre Improvement project, with the installation of 7 new benches, 2 planters and 3 notice boards along with the Fox Sculpture that is positioned in Johns Court.

The green bollards within the village centre were refurbished with the roses which were either reattached or replaced.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Memorial Tree was commissioned and installed along with the Forget You Not Post Box situated in the new wildflower garden of the Peace Meadow area of the Cemetery. The official opening of the Memorial Tree took place on Friday, 23rd December 2022 and was officiated by Mr Alberto Costa MP, it was a lovely celebration, and a reception was followed at The Parish Council offices.

The Parish Council are delighted to welcome the purchase of the memorial leaves and Forget You Not envelopes to all, they are not just for the Parishioners of Blaby.

Resurfacing of sections of the Cemetery paths, especially where the tree roots have disturbed the groundwork will commencing in the spring.

Parks

Over the Summer months the Northfield Park project will commence with exciting new play equipment being installed, some of the existing equipment will be relocated, and some repaired and painted.

Next Year the Parish Council will be applying for three green flag awards, Oakfield Park, Northfield Park and the Cemetery.

The Parish Council have taken the decision to ban dogs from their enclosed play areas in the 4 Council parks, notices have been placed on the entry gates of each of the play areas.

Events

The Summer Family Fun Day event, held at Oakfield Park in August 2022 was a great success and very well attended, with a variety of music provided that entertained families throughout the day. This year the event will take place on Saturday, 5th August, the theme will be the same as last year's event.

November 2022 saw another very successful Christmas Light Switch on, parishioners had previously requested a Christmas Tree to be part of the theme and The Parish Council were delighted to make this happen and it was the main feature in Johns Court. This year's Christmas light switch on event will be held on Friday, 24th November.

Parking

The Parish Council have applied for 4 free parking days for both the village car parks.

- Saturday, 8th April 2023 (This is when the Fox & Tiger have their Spring Artisan Market)
- Saturday, 24th June 2023 (This is when the Cortex Circus is on Northfield Park)
- Saturday, 5th August 2023 (Our Summer Funday)
- Friday, 24th November 2023 (Our Christmas Light Switch on)

3. PARISH MATTERS

Mr Hall – Christmas Lights

It was asked if the Christmas lights could stay in situ all year round to save money on putting them up and taking them down.

AGREED: It is confirmed this would not be possible as at any one time only 1 piece of equipment can be on the lampposts so this would mean that we wouldn't be able to put up any hanging baskets during the Summer months.

Mr Hall – Precept Increase

It was asked why the precept had increased so much this year.

AGREED: It is confirmed there has been an increase of 9.7% on a Council Tax Band D property for the coming year but the Parish council has also planned to use some of their reserve funds to assist with keeping the increase as low as possible.

Mr Hall – Allotment Car Park

It was asked if anything is going to be done with the allotment car park as it gets very waterlogged.

AGREED: It is confirmed that as previously stated the land isn't owned by the Parish Council so until approval is granted from the landowners the Parish Council is unable to consider if they could do any work to the car park.

The chairman thanked everybody for attending.

MEETING CLOSED: 7.14PM