

Update on Estates Issues

This report sets out progress on a number of estates issues raised by the committee or reported to the clerk.

1. Overgrown hedgerow between Meeting Green and Nunnery Green

This matter was referred to SCC Highways records office, who have now established the owner of the hedgerow, a hedging notice is likely to be issued, requiring the landowner to cut back the hedgerow. The clerk has been advised that this is an SCC Highways function. This matter has been chased again with SCC Highways (the information only being provided to the engineer on 4th February). The matter has also been raised with Cllr Mary Evans as no progress is being made.

2. Poor Drainage of Footpath 25 at the Coltsfoot Green End

Surfacing of the first 50m from the road width (the extent of the worse bit up to the end of the adjacent fence) at 1m approx.– digging out, edging and infill with road plainings with a contribution by the Parish Council of up to £1600 was agreed by the Estates Committee at the March meeting (Min. EC.21.03. refers). The landowner was approached by Suffolk Public Rights of Way team, and the work is largely completed, with final clearing up scheduled in the next week or so.

3. Land Slipping into Drainage Culvert at Coltsfoot Green

The clerk asked for advice as to how to resolve this problem from the Environment Agency, who advised that it is the landowners responsibility. At the clerk's request this was referred to the Environment Agency's Local Partnership and Strategic Overview Team for guidance. Awaiting a response. The Parish Council has power to carry out works for their maintenance or improvement or to pay others to do this under the Public Health Act 1936, s.260. A proposal for work to address this has been suggested by DR King, and a quote received, attached as Appendix A to this report. Quotes were requested from two further drainage companies, but to date no response has been received from one, and the second advised that they do not undertake this work.

Recommendation:

To authorise the cost of digging back soil and supplying 900 x 600mm slab laid on edge with cement backing to help support the bank on Culvert at Coltsfoot Green at not more than £105 plus VAT.

4. Six Acres:

a. Handrail and backfilling to steps down from Six Acres to Footpath 25

At the March meeting the committee agreed to authorise the cost of backfilling the steps from Six Acres down onto FP25 and installing a hand-rail, at not more than £804 plus VAT (Min. EC.21.03 refers). This work has been instructed and is due to be undertaken in early June by the Suffolk PROW contractor at a cost of not more than £450.00 plus VAT.

5. Replacement of Gateposts leading to the War Memorial

This work has now been completed.



6. Works to Parish Trees

Quotes have been requested from a number of arboriculturalists for the Tri-annual survey of parish trees, to be reported back to the August meeting.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
May 2021

7. Commemorative WWII Bench

This bench has now been installed.



It is hoped that a formal opening of the bench can be arranged to coincide with the open day at the MSC on 3rd July. Dorothy Anderson, the Chair of Wickhambrook History Group, has been approached to cut the ribbon.

8. Upgrading waste bins on parish land

The revised schedule of work to install new lockdown and combined bins has now been completed, with a new combined bin sited at Coltsfoot Close to replace the old dog waste bin. There were some teething problems with respect to waste collection from the remaining litter bin in the play area, but this now seems to be resolved.

9. Levelling Sunken Graves in Cemetery

The work to level 36 sunken graves for levelling remains outstanding and has now been completed (**Min. WPC.EC.20.03.9.2iii refers**) at a cost of £880 plus VAT. David did level a number of additional graves, but there was no additional charge for this work.

10. Maintenance in Cemetery

During a recent inspection of the old cemetery, the clerk has identified a number of items to address:

- a. There is some substantial growth of moss and accumulation of vegetative matter on the slate roof of the chapel of rest which should be cleared prior to the winter months;
- b. To increase light in the old cemetery, and open up the sight lines, the tree surgeon has suggested the following course of action:
 - i. Lift the crowns of the two cedars/yews nearest the Chapel of Rest, and reduce the height by one third; and
 - ii. Take out the two yews closest to the entrance gates leading to the Chapel of Rest.

A quote has been obtained, attached as Appendix B.

- c. The old water butts to the front of the chapel of rest are a little perished and it would be advisable to plan for these to be replaced;
- d. Some pointing to the War Memorial has come loose, and a chip broken off, which should be replaced prior to winter frosts setting in
- e. Remove infestations of ivy in the hedge bounding cemetery road and replant with privet or natural hedging (it may be possible to obtain hedging free of charge from the Woodland Trust later this year).

Recommendation:

To authorise the cost of lifting tree crowns 43, 44, 45 & 46 to 20ft (approx.) and reduction of height by 15 % (approx.), and reduction of Tree 42 by 15% at a cost of not more than £250.00.

D R KING & SON

Landmark, Coltsfoot Green, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB88UW

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VAT Registration: 936950489

Hilary Workman
Wickhambrook Parish Council
123 York Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3EG

24/05/21

Invoice No. 1137

Location: Coltsfoot Green Ditch

To dig back soil and supply 900x600 Slab, laid on its edge with cement backing to help support the bank and the bridge.

Sub Total: £105.00
VAT 20%: £21.00
Total: £126.00

with Slab in Place



CULVERT COLTSFOOT GREEN WILLIAMSBURG



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 Ashley
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Estimate

ADDRESS

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 Wickhambrook Parish
 123 York Road
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk
 IP33 3EG

ESTIMATE NO. 1050

DATE 20/04/2021

DATE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
19/04/2021	Tree work for cemetery as followed	1	0.00	0.00
19/04/2021	Lift Tree crowns 43, 44, 45 and 46 to 20ft (approx) and reduction of height by 15% (approx)	1	150.00	150.00
19/04/2021	On entrance, remove Yew trees first on left and first on right to open up for Landscape scenery	1	200.00	200.00
19/04/2021	Tree 42 looking weathered, possible decline. Reduction of 15% and monitor	1	100.00	100.00
TOTAL				£450.00

BACS: 20-29-68 - 93517292
 Cheques made payable to: AWC Services
 Paypal: info@suffolktreesurgery.co.uk