

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 Coltsfoot 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. This is an SCC Highways function. The hedge to the left from Meeting Green to Coltsfoot Green has now been cut back, but, the hedgerow on the right (as reported at the October meeting) is now becoming overgrown. This has been reported on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool, and has been added to their inspection schedule.

2. 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, who have now referred back to Suffolk County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFI) for the area. It appears that the nature of the work to be undertaken will not require consent, but an enquiry has been submitted on the basis of the most recent quote received. 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. Two proposals for work to address this has been received (attached as Appendix A) and it is proposed that this matter be considered at the February meeting (upon receipt of the outstanding quote) which work scheduled in the next financial year.

Six Acres:

a. Outer Banks

Provision has been made to include brush cutting of the outer banks of Six Acres three times a year, which is estimated at up to £350 per cut. An alternative approach would be to consider planting the banks with deciduous woodland trees. The Environment Agency have indicated they can see no issue with this, and the parish's existing contractor has suggested that this would be a viable and cost effective alternative. Sapplings could be sourced from Woodland Trust or Sunica, planted by volunteers.

2. Works to Parish Trees

Acacia Tree Surgery were appointed to undertake the Tri-annual survey of parish trees, which took place on 6th September. Works to trees has been instructed with Suffolk Trees and Landscapes, which is due to be completed by end of November. The Parochial Church Council decided to remove the Holly Tree at their cost.

3. Maintenance in Cemetery

Works to

- a. Remove infestations of ivy in the hedge bounding cemetery road and replant with privet or natural hedging is outstanding at present and would require a working party. The clerk has contacted Sunica to discuss obtaining hedging free of charge from the Woodland Trust or Sunica later this year and is scheduling a meeting.

4. Chapel of Rest

Ideally a new smart meter should be fitted for the electricity supply. This would need to be fitted at a lower level in future, and therefore the clerk has approached the Carnival Committee and Wickhambrook Players (whose scenery is stored to the right of the doors) to identify a mutually convenient date to re-organise space within the Chapel. A response is awaited from Wickhambrook Players.

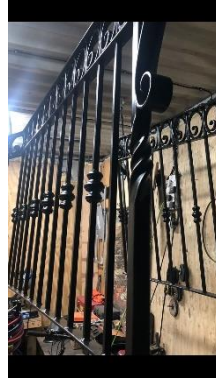
5. Defibrillators

Replacement batteries replacement pads have been purchased.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
November 2021

6. New Railings at War Memorial Entrance

The railings have now been completed, painted and cured. The railings have been delivered and awaiting installation.



7. Royal British Legion and Remembrance Events.

The Royal British Legion representative contacted the parish clerk prior to the Remembrance Sunday Event to request permission to erect a temporary flag pole in the cemetery to enable RBL to fly armed forces flags on Remembrance Day, and Remembrance Sunday.

The proposal was to insert a tube into the ground with a cap fitted to the top at ground level, thus ensuring that there would be no interference with the maintenance of the cemetery and no trip hazard.

It was resolved that a temporary stand would be used for the ceremony on Remembrance Sunday this year, and that the proposal would be put forward for the parish council to consider for future years.

Recommendation:

That permission be given for RBL to insert a tube into the ground with a cap fitted to the top at ground level, thus ensuring that there would be no interference with the maintenance of the cemetery and no trip hazard, subject to:

- a. **The site being agreed in advance with the clerk;**
- b. **A risk assessment and public liability insurance be provided in advance of the work to install the tube; and**
- c. **Royal British Legion agree in writing to maintain the tube, or remove, at their cost, if requested to do so by the Parish Council.**