

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> February). The matter has also been raised with both the former County Cllr Mary Evans and our new Cllr Bobby Bennett as no progress is being made. The new hedge trimming season is upon us and the clerk is already receiving complaints about this stretch of hedgerow.

### **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. 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 (£1200 plus VAT). Quotes were requested from two further drainage companies, one not responding and one advising that they did not undertake this type of work. At its June meeting the committee asked the clerk to obtain further quotes.

It has been difficult to find contractors to undertake this work. Quotes have been requested and are being followed up by the clerk, who will report back to the next meeting.

### **2. Six Acres:**

#### **a. Cutting of hedges bounding Six Acres**

This work has been completed.

### **3. Works to Parish Trees**

Acacia Tree Surgery were appointed to undertake the Tri-annual survey of parish trees, which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September. See report at Agenda item nine (**WPC.EC.21.10.02**).

### **4. Upgrading waste bins on parish land**

The post which supported the dog waste bin at the corner of Six Acres and FP25 has now been removed by our new parish volunteer, Paul. The new combined bin within the children's play area at Cemetery Road does now seem to be being emptied on a regular basis.

### **5. Maintenance in Cemetery**

Works identified below:

- a. 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. Works to trees:
  - 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.
- c. Replacement of the old water butts to the front of the Chapel of Rest
- d. Re-pointing to the War Memorial and repair to chips

Has been completed. Work to

- e. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. Defibrillators**

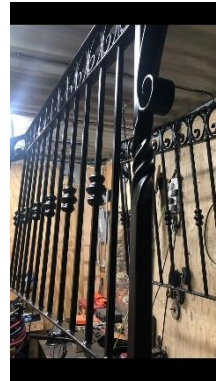
The defibrillator at the Memorial Social Centre was recently used and replacement pads have been fitted. Replacement pads for both defibrillators should now be purchased to ensure that there is always a spare set available. Additionally, the batteries have a life of between 4-5 years. The defibrillators were installed in 2017, so it is recommended that replacement batteries are ordered now to ensure that they are available as soon as the self-checking indicates that they require replacement.

**Recommendation:**

**The Estates Committee authorise the cost of two batteries and two replacement packs for the defibrillators at a cost of not more than £494.00 plus VAT.**

**8. New Railings at War Memorial Entrance**

The railings have now been completed, painted and cured. The railings will be delivered and stored in the Chapel of Rest until they can be installed by Cllrs and our volunteer. It is hoped that these will be installed in time for Remembrance Sunday.



**9. Items to be considered for inclusion in the draft budget for 2022/23**

- a. Work to cemetery gates at Chapel of Rest entrance
- b. A plan of the cemetery & Gods Own Acre signage for the old cemetery
- c. Improvements to the path leading up to chapel of rest
- d. Purchase of Royal British Legion Tommies (see brochure attached as Appendix A).
- e. Cost of one set of two replacement pads for defibrillators
- f. Spare chains and bushes for swing seats in children's play parks
- g. Bi-annual service of zip-wire