

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 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. The parish council has agreed to participate in a network of parishes raising Highways issues to raise the profile of outstanding work.

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. Three proposals for work to address this have been received and funding has been allocated in the 2022/23 budget (£2750.00).

3. 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.

4. Maintenance in Cemetery

Works to remove infestations of ivy in the hedge bounding cemetery road and replant with privet or natural hedging had been raised. Work to establish the footway between The Meadows and the Memorial Social Centre resulted in SCC Highways project team taking out the Cemetery Hedge without consulting with the parish.

The clerk and the Chair met the Highways team on site, and are now working with the ecology team at SCC to ensure that a new hedge is planted before the end of the planting season.

It is likely that SCC will need to obtain a faculty from the diocese for consent to this work.

5. 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.

6. New Railings at War Memorial Entrance

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



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