

## 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. This is being escalated through the Suffolk County Councillor Bobby Bennett.

The clerk met with a Community Liaison Officer from Suffolk County Council Highways on 25<sup>th</sup> October and raised this issue. The CLI clarified this and other points summarised below:

- In general, it is better for the parish to write to landowners (where they can be identified) requesting that they cut a hedge back (parishes can not issue enforcement notices) as it can take a minimum of 80 days for SCC to progress to enforcement action
- Highways consider that where there is not a footway, pedestrians should not be encouraged to try and mount a verge (this could lead to slips and falls) – it is safer to walk on the carriage way, facing oncoming traffic
- There is no current maintenance policy for roadside grips, but where there are individual ones which are blocked and resulting in flooding, these may be reported and Highways could dig out
- SCC Highways will provide grit bins to the old existing grit dump sites
- Parishes can consider entering into a Licence arrangement with SCC Highways (one off £130 fee) to undertake works in parish which can be carried out safely from a verge (e.g. cleaning signs). This would be a matter for the parish council to consider.

### **2. Land Slipping into Drainage Culvert at Coltsfoot Green**

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. At its April meeting the committee resolved to appoint a contractor to undertake work to both banks of the culvert, the drainage of the pond to be delayed until the next financial year or when additional funds available.



Work has been completed and contractor returned to clear earth laid on green and restore back.

**3. Maintenance in Cemetery**

SCC has now completed the re-instatement of a new hedge made up of native species (see plan attached at Appendix A). This is looking a little sickly due to the very hot and dry weather and some whips may need replacing. It has been reported that some people are walking across the hedge from the pavement into the cemetery. The installation of a fence could be considered in the next financial year (or a grant to cover the cost sought) to prevent this and further protect the saplings.

A full evaluation of head and kerb stones will need to be carried out in the next financial year which may result in some memorial stoneware being laid flat (the alternative option, which is not as visually pleasing, is to stake and band the stones).

**4. Chapel of Rest**

Following work to the Drive at Chapel of Rest, some worn areas of macadam, particularly outside the Chapel of Rest, have been identified which will require remedial work in the longer term.



Additionally, there is a crack to the outer door lintel which may require work, and it should be investigated as to whether this is being caused by roots from nearby trees.

Work was instructed to re-set the water butts outside the Chapel on levelled paviers to ensure that they are secure before the autumn weather re-fills them. Unfortunately this wasn't completed on the first tranche of works, and will be re-scheduled.

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

The railings were installed on 14<sup>th</sup> September.



**6. Installation of replacement bench to Coltsfoot Green**

A replacement bench was installed at Coltsfoot Green on 14<sup>th</sup> September.



**7. Levelling and fixing of bench at Bury Road Pocket park**

The small bench within Bury Road Pocket park had been reported as slightly loose on its anchor pins. The bench has now been bolted onto new laid concrete pavements and is secure.



**8. Street Art in Skate Park**

A Street Art workshop held in April resulting in some vibrant painting of the pipe housings and bench shelter.





In order to protect this and ensure that the paintwork does not deteriorate, the clerk has been advised that a coat of Marine varnish applied should be applied.

A five litre can of Marine varnish (suitable for metal surfaces can be purchased for £56.61 (plus £14.90 delivery) incl. VAT.

**Recommendation:**

**Authorise the cost of purchase of marine varnish, brushes and cleaning materials at not more than £100 plus VAT.**

**9. Old BT Telephone Box**

The paint to the BT Telephone box at Thorns Corner/Mole Hill which the parish acquired and subsequently converted to a book exchange is now heavily weathered and blistering in places. Additionally, the Perspex BT signs at the top have bleached out.

The box could be re-painted and touched up by volunteers (it would need to be washed, scraped back and sanded initially), and basic materials would cost between £75 - £100 (quick search on Amazon) incl. VAT.

Alternatively, the clerk could investigate costs for someone to undertake the work. This would probably best be undertaken in the spring now.