

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. SCC Highways Functions

Following advice from Suffolk County Council's Community Liaison Officer the clerk has been following up on a number of issues:

- Roadside Grips – an item for the website setting out SCC's position – that 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 – A request has been logged regarding a drain on the road from Meeting Green to Boyden Green and this has been escalated through our County Councillor.
- SCC Highways will provide grit bins to the old existing grit dump sites – the clerk has identified the old dump sites from records, and will be requesting grit bins to these sites through the Community Liaison Officer.

2. 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 was looking a little sickly due to the very hot and dry weather in the summer but appears to have recovered over the wetter and cooler autumn and winter.

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, some funds being allocated to this in the next financial year.

3. 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.

The water butts outside the Chapel have now been re-set on levelled pavements to ensure that they are secure.

4. 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.

5. Bench on Six Acres

At the November meeting the committee asked the clerk to investigate re-locating an existing (non-memorial) bench from the cemetery to Six Acres following a request from a local resident for a bench adjacent to the Cableway.

On checking in the cemetery, all three benches are dedicated to the memorial of individuals who lost their lives in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 wars, and to those who lost their lives in other conflicts.

A good quality wooden bench with Anchoring and Teak Oil can be purchased at costs between £365 and £525 plus VAT.



The parish council has the relevant powers to provide park benches (power to maintain open spaces under Public Health Act 1875 s.164 and Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10), and a budget of £750.00 for Six Acres (unspent).

Action:

The Committee chose a design suitable for siting adjacent to the cable way from the 3 images above.

Recommendation:

The parish council authorise the purchase of a three or four seater bench to be located adjacent to the Cable way on Six Acres at a cost of not more than £550 plus VAT (to include the cost of laying slabs and installation).