

Update on Estates Issues

This report sets out progress on a number of estates issues raised by the committee or reported to the clerk.

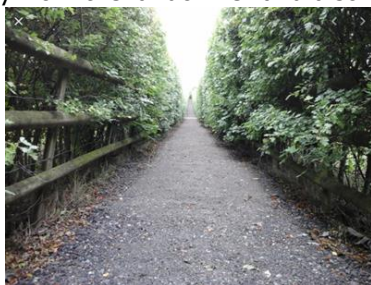
1. Overgrown hedgerow between Meeting Green and Nunnery Green

This matter has been referred to SCC Highways records office, with a requirement for action by 5th October. Once highways have 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 4th February). The matter has also been raised with Cllr Mary Evans as no progress is being made.

2. Poor Drainage of Footpath 25 at the Coltsfoot Green End

The clerk has reported this issue to the public rights of way team and requested an update, specifically asking whether this can be dealt with as a priority due to risk to walkers of trips and falls in winter and wet weather. The Public Rights of Way team (PROW) has acknowledged the logged problem and the following estimate and advice has been received:

- Surfacing of the first 50m from the road width (the extent of the worse bit up to the end of the adjacent fence) at 1m approx.– digging out, edging and infill with road plainings - £1600. For Type 1 material the cost would likely be around double. This also depends on getting the okay from the landowner and also checking of the definitive widths etc..



Example of type of surface.

PROW has advised that some contribution towards this project might be possible in the next financial year (e.g. the parish pays for materials and SCC the labour, dependant on budget allocation).

Actions:

- **Consider whether parish council would want to proceed with this scheme in the event that SCC PROW were not able to co-fund it.**
- **Identify landowner(s) adjacent to path to approach for their support and agreement to this improvement project.**

3. Handrails at Coltsfoot Green and the footbridge by the sewerage works.

Following a meeting with David King, Cllr Barton and Roger Merry in late August, the need for a handrail adjacent to the culvert at Coltsfoot Green, and on the footbridge by the sewerage works was identified, to improve safety of walkers.

David King has now reported that work to install a handrail and footboard adjacent to the Culvert at Coltsfoot Green has now been completed.

PROW has now widened the footbridge by the sewerage works (work completed from their budget).

4. 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 clerks request this has now been 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 is awaited.

5. Safety Check for Zip Wire on Six Acres.

At the October meeting of the Estates Committee the clerk was asked to check the cost of annual servicing of the zip wire. At its December meeting the committee resolved to instruct Fenland Leisure to undertake the work. This has now been completed. Unfortunately, the seat was not compliant and could not be returned to the parish to be kept as a spare. The total cost of the service including parts was £623.71.

6. Six Acres:

a. Loose posts adjacent to Tennis Court

Following the October meeting, the Clerk requested a quote for work to re-set the posts and paint to improve visibility. A quote for this work was received and following agreement with the Chair of the Committee and Parish Council the work was instructed and has now been completed.

b. Overhanging trees on Footpath 25

Following the October meeting, D R King has advised that work to the trees is not included in the Grounds Contract. Mr R Medley has kindly trimmed back some of the trees overhanging the footpath.

c. Handrail and backfilling to steps down from Six Acres to Footpath 25

Quotes have been received from SCC PROW and DR King for this work, as summarised below:

D R King	Form a hand rail to the steps. Repair and Tidy steps then, back fill steps and ensure they are level behind the timber. Using the concrete barrel Pail posts and metal tube.	£804 plus VAT
Dave Corkhill (via SCC PROW)	Backfilling steps behind the timber Installing a handrail	£200 plus VAT £250 plus VAT Total £450 plus VAT

The Parish Council has powers under the Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 to provide and maintain open space or burial ground in or outside the council's area. Work to these steps could be funded from the Six Acres budget (£1990 available in current financial year). The parish council does not have to accept the cheapest quote.

Action:

Choose a contractor to complete the proposed work based on the quotes above.

Recommendation

To authorise the cost of backfilling the steps from Six Acres down onto FP25 and installing a hand-rail, at not more than £804 plus VAT.

7. Works to Parish Trees

As identified following Acacia Tree Service's annual inspection has been instructed (**Min Ref 20.12.8.2.2**) and the contractor has agreed to spread chippings arising from the work on nearby footpaths. PROW advised they had no objections in principle to chippings being used on muddy footpaths.

8. Replacement of Gateposts leading to the War Memorial

This has been instructed and the gates are now with the contractor for refurbishment.

9. Commemorative WWII Bench

This has now been delivered and is stored in the Chapel of Rest awaiting installation. D R King has been instructed to lay the slab and install the bench. As soon as it is possible to meet physically, an opening ceremony will be arranged. Dorothy Anderson, the Chair of Wickhambrook History Group, has been approached to cut the ribbon.

10. Upgrading waste bins on parish land

Following authorisation of the cost of cost of initial outlay for up to four lockdown bins and one combined bin (**Min Ref 20.12.12.2**), and further discussion with West Suffolk, there has been a slight adjustment to the proposed sites, as summarised below:

- a) Remove Dog Bin/Post and replace with Lock Down Frame (Tennis Court End) – Remove charging for bin emptying
- b)
 - i. Remove Dog Bin/Post (remove charge for bin emptying) and
 - ii. Replace with Combined Dog Waste and Litter Bin (Coltsfoot Close)
- c) Remove Litter Bin from inside and replace with Lock Down Frame outside (Play Area)
- d) Leave first Litter Bin in Play Area – Place on emptying schedule at £3.02 per weekly empty (Current price)
- e) Install a Lock Down Frame in the cemetery – (two black bins here would be removed)



- f) Place litter bin in Games area on emptying schedule at £3.02 per weekly empty (Current price)
- g) Place litter bin in Skate Park on emptying schedule at £3.02 per weekly empty (Current price)

See **Appendix A** for a plan of these bins. The net effect of these adjustments would be:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Current Waste Bin Collection	£471.12 (paid)		
Collection from litter bins in play areas	£12.08 (based on 2 weeks)	£471.12	£628.16
Upgrade 3 dog bins to lockdowns	£315.99 per bin £947.97		
Upgrade 1 dog bin to combined bin	£346.99	£157.04	£157.04
Total	£1778.16	£628.16	£628.16
(approved)	£1911.94	£785.20	£785.20

Recommendation:
Revise the schedule as set out above.

11. Levelling Sunken Graves in Cemetery

The work to level a number of sunken graves for levelling remains outstanding and has been re-instructed (**Min. WPC.EC.20.03.9.2iii refers**) at a cost of £300 plus VAT. This would cover the cost of levelling approximately 12 graves at £25 per grave. An inspection with David King in September however identified a total of 36 graves which currently require levelling (this should be done from both a safety point of view, and for ease of future cutting). A quote from DR King to level all the graves identified (shown as Appendix B) is set out below:

Supply top soil grass seed and fertilizer. May have to use turf on a few.

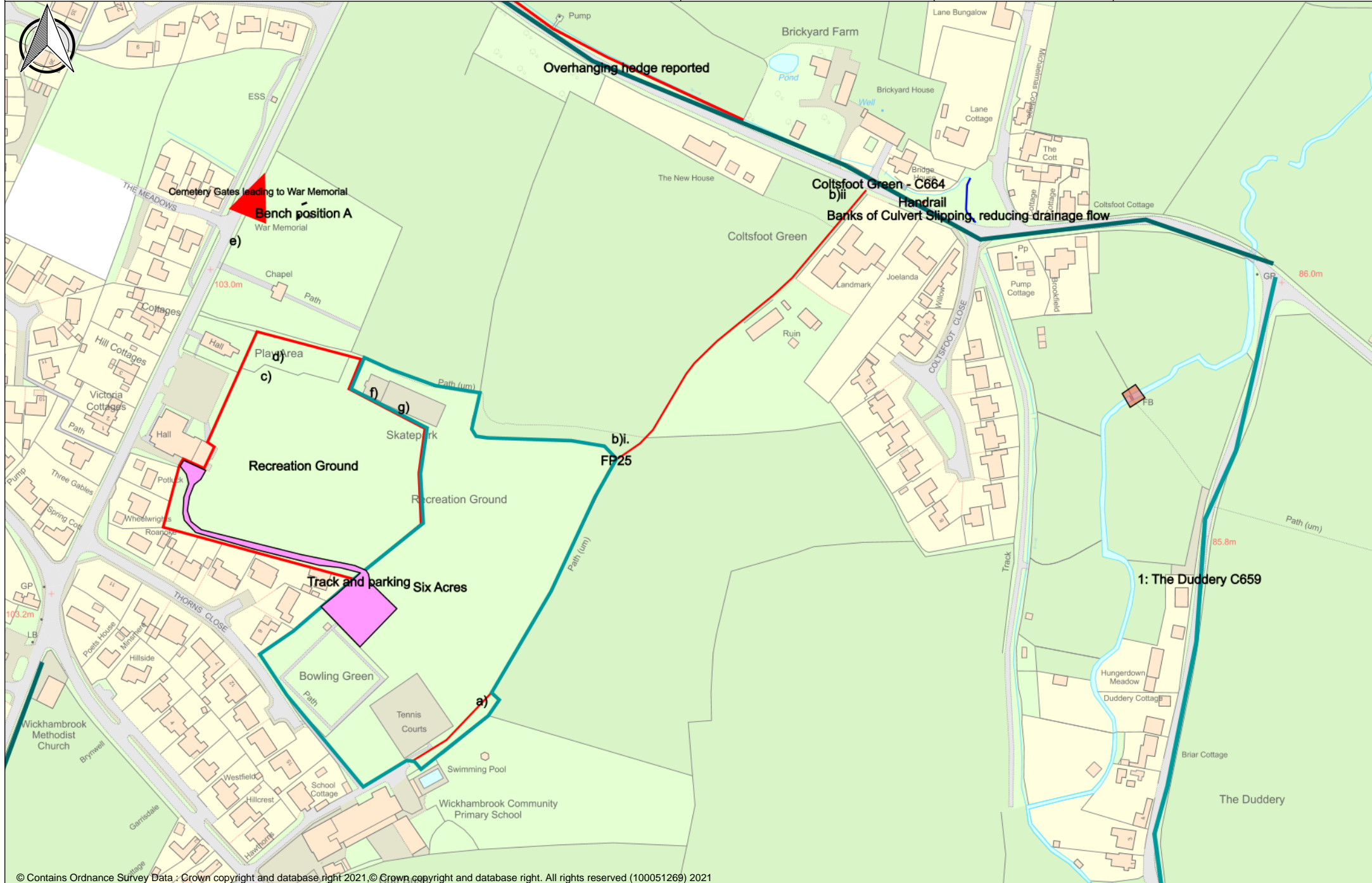
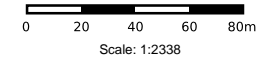
Budget Price: **£880 + VAT**

WPC.EC.21.03.01 – Estates Issues

After groundworks approved for the cemetery in the next financial year, and the £300 already approved there would be a balance of £640 on this budget line against the balance cost of £580 plus VAT to level all 36 graves identified.

Recommendation:

To approve a further £580 plus VAT to complete works to levelling graves in the cemetery.



				MAIN GATE TO CEMETERY				
ROW 1	CYRIL WALLACE				OLD HEAD STONE			ROW 1
ROW 2	NONE	NONE	NONE		NONE	NONE		ROW 2
ROW 3	CHARLES MOORE	GEORGE WRIGHT						ROW 3
ROW 4	ASHMAN							ROW 4
ROW 5	S. HURREL	MARY GRIMWOOD			HICKS			ROW 5
ROW 6	EMMS	END OF ROW GRAVE			TREBLE ANT HILL TO REMOVE			ROW 6
ROW 7	ORFORD	MEDCALF						ROW 7
ROW 8	JAMES COOK	END OF ROW GRAVE			FIRST GRAVE ANT HILL	LOYNS		ROW 8
ROW 9	SHILDON	JOLLY			ANT HILL AND LOW AREAS			ROW 9
ROW 10	DODSON				UNMARKED GRAVE STONE			ROW 10
ROW 11	FIRST 3 HEAD STONES				BISHOP	HAYGREEN	HEMSTEAD	ROW 11
ROW 12	KING				SPALDING			ROW 12
ROW 13	MOORE	JOHNSTON	HOBBS		ALEXANDER	GRAVE WITH CROSS		ROW 13

RIGHT HAND SIDE

LEFT HAND SIDE