Update on Estates Issues

This report sets out progress on a number of estates issues raised by the committee or reported to the clerk. Progress against the work plan agreed at the February meeting (Min. 24.02.8.1, Report WPC.EC.24.02.01 refers) is summarised below:

Previous Financial Year (2023 – 24)



Cemetery Notice Board – further work to be done on cemetery records before mapping can be completed – old parish notice board to be re-furbished and fitted in porch to Chapel of Rest in (brought forward from previous financial year)



Increasing accessibility to grave space records for Councillors – work to the plan is ongoing - researching impacts of GDPR on how reserved plots are recorded and made accessible to Cllrs (brought forward from previous financial year).

April Min Ref 23.02.13



Fencing to hedge adjacent to cemetery – Suffolk County Council have agreed funding for hedging plants and Estate's Committee has authorised cost of Chestnut Paling fence, which has been ordered.Re-painting of BT Call box

May July August September

- Memorial Testing and actions arising from this
- Drainage of Pond at Coltsfoot Green
- Taking on Memorial Clock as an asset Parish Council resolved to withdraw proposed agreement and revert to the PCC applying for a grant (Min. 23.09.15 refers)

November

Replacement of six white posts at Tennis Courts

November & February

November Improvement of FP25 to base of Steps @ Six Acres

Current Financial Year (2024 – 25)



- Cemetery Notice Board -old parish notice board to be re-furbished and fitted in porch to Chapel of Rest in preparation. (brought forward from previous financial year)
- Cleaning of War Memorial
- Work to parish trees adjacent to Chapel of Rest



Increasing accessibility to grave space records for Councillors – work to onboard all purchased grave space, grave space and interment register records to new software is in progress

April Min Ref 23.02.13

Remedial work to tested Memorials (four of thirteen undertaken) Transfer of Land from Havebury and SCC

April Instructed

Bench for Cemetery (Royal Navy Past & Present)

Purchased awaiting install

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

- SCC Highways will approve grit bins to the old existing grit dump sites (previously the clerk had been advised that the bins would be provided, but now advised that it is the responsibility of the parish council to purchase)— the clerk has identified the old dump sites from records, and will be requesting grit bins to these sites through the Community Liaison Officer.
- There was a grit bin at Nunnery Green (exact location to be identified) and the clerk is still awaiting advice from the Liaison officer to establish exact location and whether or not formal approval is required to replace the bin (this may have been a Havebury Housing grit bin. A request for a grit bin near the junction of Clopton Green with the A143 has also been received from a local resident.

Hilary Workman Clerk & RFO March 2024

1. Maintenance in Cemetery

Volunteer days in Cemetery started on the first Wednesday in March. Our first job was the clearing of leaf litter and fitting canes and rabbit guards to the restored of hedgeline between cemetery and pavement along Cemetery Road (7.5m at end nearest WI Hall).



Cllr Lavelle teamed up with the new beaver troop in the parish to install bird boxes made from recycled pallets in and around the cemetery in late March, and the Wombles returned on Sunday 24th April for the first Litter pick of the year, led by Mary Jolland, with thanks to the MSC for a warm shelter and refreshments.

Chapel of Rest

Following work to the Drive at Chapel of Rest in 2021, some worn areas of macadam, particularly outside the Chapel of Rest, have been identified which will require remedial work in the longer term. Quotes received to date are in excess of £5000 and this has been moved back in the three year plan.

A further quote has been requested from a new contractor.





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 clerk needs assistance to undertake a spring clean of the Chapel of Rest – volunteers invited!!

Six Acres and Recreation Ground

Quotes have been sought for security barriers to limit access onto Recreation Ground and Six Acres. Advice from the new contractor is that drop down posts with padlocks would be the most cost effective solution.

A further bench has been purchased for the bottom end of Six Acres following approval at the February meeting.



Hilary Workman Clerk & RFO March 2024

WPC.EC.24.04.01 – Estates Issues

Play Areas

Purchase of consumables for replacement items in the play areas at Cemetery and Bury Road have been ordered following approval at the parish council's February meeting.

A volunteer day to clean down play equipment at Cemetery Road, and touch up with paint should be organised to take place as soon as possible.

Defibrillators

The battery for the defibrillator at the fire station will require replacement in the near future. The clerk is arranging, with the help of Peter Vince, for a loan defibrillator whilst the suppliers check both the battery and device for faults. The battery should be valid until 29/10/2026.