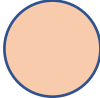








Update on Estates Issues

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:

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)
 -  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
 -  Transfer of Land from Havebury and SCC
 -  Cleaning of War Memorial
 -  Bench for Cemetery (Royal Navy Past & Present)
 -  Remedial work to tested Memorials (seven of thirteen undertaken, balance scheduled 1st week July)
- April
Min Ref 23.02.13
Instructed
May
May
June

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.

1. Maintenance in Cemetery

Volunteer days in Cemetery started on the first Wednesday in March.

In June, the team focussed on preparing the cemetery for the commemoration of D-Day 80, with a lovely display of the re-cycled poppies and a special flag added to the display.



WPC.EC.24.07.01 – Estates Issues

At the next Cemetery Tidy morning a clean down and re-oiling of the three benches is planned. The parish council already has wire brushes, but will need to purchase additional materials (teak oil, brushes) to undertake this work, costed at £60 plus VAT. Additionally, the tyre on the barrow requires replacement (approximately £15 plus VAT).

Legal Basis: Local Government Act 1972, s.214(2)

Budget: Services & Supplies

£747.30

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.

At its Annual Meeting in May the parish council approved:

- the purchase of additional storage for the Chapel of Rest and secure disposal of old papers in accordance with the parish council's Document Retention Policy at a cost of not more than £350 plus VAT
- disposal of spare furniture (pews, bearers, pulpit, RSJ) free of charge (donations encouraged, for the purpose of supporting community organisations).

(Report [WPC.24.05.08](#) refers) The spare furniture needs to be disposed of to make space for the new storage units. The clerk needs assistance with a morning to re-organise the space and take images of all items for disposal (to be posted to Facebook Marketplace and Next Door f.o.c.). It may be possible to sell the items through a local auction house (if there are no handling costs on no sale of items, and parish council agrees).

The coffin bearer, and one pew bench, to be retained for the Chapel of Rest.

Action: Set a date for a working party to carry out this work.

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 installed for the bottom end of Six Acres following approval at the February meeting.



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 should be organised to take place as soon as possible. Supplies include:

2 x 5L Wet & Forget + sprayer @ £57.10	£114.20 plus VAT
1 X Set Sanding blocks	£ 6.66 plus VAT

Legal Basis: Public Health Act 1875, s.164

Budget Line: Services & Supplies (£747.30 prior to any spend approved by this ctte)

Action: Set date for volunteer morning to clean down play equipment, remove staples and rubdown splits in wood.

Recommendation:

Authorise up to £200 plus VAT for consumables for cleaning down and treating benches and play equipment and replacement barrow wheel.

Defibrillators

The battery for the defibrillator at the fire station has been repaired and the guarantee is now valid until October 2026. Thanks go out to Peter Vince, who arranged for the loan defibrillator and returned upon installation of ours on return.