




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 (2025 – 26)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cemetery Notice BoardReplacement Fencing (Bury Road)Registration of Cemetery & Six AcresWork to damaged Memorials where no deed holders foundUpgrades to play areas	July '25 Ad hoc February 26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing accessibility to grave space records for Councillors – work to onboard burial Registers has been completed and purchased grave spaces records have been transcribed ready for onboarding once final checks have been completed.Upgrades to Play AreasReplacement posts at Coltsfoot GreenWork to parish trees – re-shape to increase light	April Min Ref 23.02.13 Approved Min. Ref 24.09.10 – Work Instructed Report to this meeting Work instructed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Memorial Clock – Service and repair	February

Six Acres and Recreation Ground

The bench installed at the bottom end of Six Acres was damaged beyond repair in July and a replacement has been authorised by the Committee, to be funded from the 2025/26 budget.

The height restrictor has been installed adjacent to the Wickhambrook MSC, and the remaining two barriers will be scheduled for the next parish day.

The parish council had agreed to fund the cost of installation for the height restrictor barrier purchased by the MSC. There was an additional materials cost (concrete) submitted by the contractors in the sum of £180 plus VAT (see Appendix A).

The contractor has advised that the installation of the remaining barriers is likely to require approximately 8 bags of postcrete @£6 plus VAT per bag (£48 plus VAT).

Powers:

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 - Power to provide sports facilities and staff in or outside of the council's area or contribute towards the expenses of any voluntary organisation or local authority that provides sports facilities etc. in or outside of the council's area
- Public Health Act 1875, s.164 - Power to provide and manage recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces; and Power to provide and maintain land for public recreation.
- Local Government Act 1972, s.111 - Power to do anything that will facilitate, be conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its powers and functions.

Funding:

Six Acres: £500¹

Recommendation:

The Estates Committee authorise the cost of additional materials for installation of the height restriction barrier and three bollards at a cost of not more than £228 plus VAT.

¹ With the already authorised replacement bench (£265.92, Min EC.24.02.08.1 refers), the budget for Six Acres for the 2025-26 FY will then be spent (£493.92)

Defibrillators

Arrangements are ongoing to deal with a further battery issue on the defibrillator at the Fire station. This should be collected and a replacement delivered until the matter can be resolved on 31st March.

See report WPC.EC.25.04.06 with respect to purchase of replacement pads.

Maintenance in Cemetery

Volunteer days in Cemetery started on the first Wednesday in February. A general tidy was carried out, and one of the Memorial benches rubbed down and re-oiled ready to be installed back as soon as the pavements can be re-levelled (scheduled for the next parish day).

Of the matters raised by Cllr Grimes in her report:

- Quotes have been sought from our regular Tree surgeon for reducing the remaining large yew on the boundary with the footpath, and the re-balancing of the Chestnut adjacent to Cemetery Road. The quote comes to £*** - the work to the large yew could be delayed and an assessment of the Chestnut (which may necessitate a road closure) obtained at the review of parish trees by Acacia Tree Surgery in June
- Notices messaging the new wildlife areas have now been purchased and are planned for installation at the April Parish Day.
- The Google inspection forms will be updated

The April Event has been set aside for:

- Mulching the hedge and cherries with leaves left over from the winter and tidying back the hedge line adjacent to the pavement running up Cemetery Road
- If possible, installing the paling fencing to restrict access onto the cemetery from the start of FP26
- Installing all the Wildlife Area signs
- Sowing seed in the children's play area

Play Areas

The clerk applied to West Suffolk Council for funding through the Communities Capital Fund in November and heard in December that the amount applied for (£2250) has been awarded. This is match funding, and will be used to:

- Replace Metal post feet for swing bay at Bury Road
- Replace Cargo net for activity trail
- Replace Grass matting & Rubber Mulch under swings and Cableway at Cemetery Road

See report **WPC.EC.25.02.04**

This work has now been instructed and both contractors have been chased for start dates.

On-line playgrounds have advised that they have an estimated lead time of 8-10 weeks from order, which would take us towards the end of April, but that they would wish to avoid the Easter Break. I have asked if they can schedule with any other local jobs to reduce the cost of travel.

INVOICE



To: Wickhambrook Parish Council
 Hilary Workman
 Pavilion of the Memorial Social Centre
 Cemetery Road
 Wickhambrook
 CB8 8XR

Issue Date	25/02/2025
Invoice No.	003492
Due Date	11/03/2025
VAT Number	320 9756 01

Description	Unit Cost	Qty	VAT	Total
<i>Gate / Barrier install</i> <i>PO24.08_24.12.13: Miscellaneous & Emergency Work in Wickhambrook</i>				
Post mix 20kg	6.00	30	36.00	216.00
<i>When using naturals products, (ie sandstone and timber) the colours and sizes may vary and may also react to weather conditions.</i>				

Sub Total:	180.00
VAT (20.00%)	36.00
Total:	216.00
Amount Paid:	0.00
Balance Due (GBP):	216.00

TERMS STRICTLY ON COMPLETION

ALL GOODS REMAIN PROPERTY OF R.H. LANDSCAPES UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED IN FULL.

Bank Payments:-
 Sort code 30-91-91
 A/C No 39107468
 Cheques made payable to R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services Ltd.

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