




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. 26.02.8.2, Report WPC.EC.26.02.03 refers) is summarised below:

Current Financial Year (2026 – 27)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Clock • Upgrades to play areas • Replacement Fencing (Bury Road) • Registration of Cemetery & Six Acres • Work to damaged Memorials where no deed holders found • Posts @ Coltsfoot Green • Work to parish trees • Circular bench around oak tree • Refurbishment of Skatepark 	<p>September '26 April '26 February '27 September '26 Ad hoc July '26 April '26</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved grave space marking • Increasing accessibility to grave space records to Cllrs 	<p>April '26 Work is progressing well on this with all burial and Exclusive Rights of Burial records uploaded to new software and New Cemetery largely mapped.</p>
		

Six Acres and Recreation Ground

As part of the long term plan to develop the wildlife areas (Report WPC.EO.25.11.02 and Minute EO.25.11.07 refer), the parish council agreed that additional planting in the Wildlife area between the

Tennis Courts and Bowling Green would underpin the objectives and community actions set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. The WI, with friends and family held a successful planting day in Mid- November. Ongoing monitoring.

The new bench at the bottom of Six Acres was vandalised in early March. Thanks go out to Cllr Lavelle, who repaired it, saving the parish the cost of a new bench.

Maintenance in Cemetery

Volunteer days in Cemetery started on the first Wednesday in March. A general tidy was carried out, with the installation of picket fencing along the boundary with FP 26 and the installation of a Dead Hedge at the rear of the cemetery by the compost heap. Baby Earth Stars have been spotted in the corner by the porch (on the right hand side, facing the building).

A number of headstones checked as part of routine monitoring were found to be slightly loose and these will be monitored again as the weather improves and the ground dries out.

Additional Reserved Grave Space markers are needed.

Powers:

Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 - Power to provide and maintain open space or burial ground in or outside the council's area.

Budget:

Cemetery and Churchyard: £1000.00

Recommendation

The parish council authorise the cost of a further 10 Grave Space Markers at a cost of not more than £100 plus VAT.

WPC.EC.26.04.02 – Estates Issues

Play Areas

The March report on play areas has identified a number of low risk issues, reported under WPC.EC.26.04.05).

Chapel of Rest

Thanks go out to Cllrs A and K Grimes for their care of the Chapel of Rest and the Cemetery.

Memorial Clock

A further problem had been reported in March, which the horologists had advised may be a fee incurring repair.

With thanks to Tim Pitt and Paul Bevan, who were able to resolve the issue.

Village Sign



The village sign, installed in 1998, is now looking very sunbleached and faded. The original installers, The Village Sign People, have indicated that an initial approach would be to arrange for gentle cleaning with soap and water, to remove any accumulated grime. They report that this can make a substantial difference to the sign's appearance. This could be scheduled as an activity for the May Parish Day. Cllr Lavelle has kindly agreed to set up his scaffolding tower for the purpose.

Bowling Green

Cllr Lavelle has kindly moved the majority of equipment from the shed at the Bowling Green to the Chapel of Rest, and refurbished one of the mowers (the second being beyond economic repair). In the course of so doing, it has been established that the shed on the Bowling Green is itself in a poor condition and this will be checked again and reported back to the committee. If beyond economic repair, it will be offered in the first instance to anyone interested in taking it away for free.

Water consumption has levelled out with the cooler autumn weather and the account was in credit (£50.32) at the most recent bill.

Parish Trees

Acacia Tree Services are due to carry out their interim inspection in June. This is normally a free of charge inspection of diary noted trees, but they do also offer a more in-depth inspection of all parish trees at a cost of £175 plus VAT. Given the wet winter, this may be a prudent option, allowing for any interim work to be undertaken to trees in poor condition rather than risk further deterioration before work following the tri-annual inspection in Summer 2027.

Powers:

Public Health Act 1875 s.164 - Power to provide and maintain land for public recreation.

Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 - Power to provide and maintain open space or burial ground in or outside the council's area.

Budget:

Tree Surgery: £750.00

Recommendation:

The parish council authorise the cost of an interim inspection to be undertaken by Acacia Tree Services at a cost of not more than £175 plus VAT.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
March 2026