

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)

	• Memorial Clock • Replacement Fencing (Bury Road) • Registration of Cemetery & Six Acres • Work to damaged Memorials where no deed holders found • Posts @ Coltsfoot Green • Circular bench around oak tree • Refurbishment of Skatepark	September '26 February '27 September '26 Ad hoc July '26 April '26
	• Reserved grave space marking • Increasing accessibility to grave space records to Cllrs • Work to parish trees	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. Inspection complete
	• Upgrades to play areas	June '26

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. An inspection in late April identified that some of the saplings would benefit from watering and the WI team was advised

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 in March have been re-inspected and 23 were found to be loose on their bases. These have been staked and banded (with thanks to Cllrs A & K Grimes) and the clerk is contacting deed holders with a request that remedial work be carried out.

Play Areas

Remedial Works identified and approved by the Parish Council at its April meeting (Min. 26.04.15 refers) have now been completed. An urgent issue with the cableway was approved under delegated authority in consultation with the Chair, and this work was completed in early June.

The June report on play areas has identified a number of low risk issues, reported under WPC.EC.26.07.04).

Hilary Workman
 Clerk & RFO
 June 2026

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

No further issues identified. The clerk submitted a request for refurbishment of the clock to the recent call out by the BBC's "Repair Shop".

Village Sign



The village sign, installed in 1998, is now looking very sun-bleached 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 had kindly agreed to set up his scaffolding tower for the purpose. The council's Insurance underwriter has now confirmed that volunteers would be covered to work at heights of upto 3m, subject to necessary highways permissions. Matthew Fox, our SCC Highways Community Liaison Officer has confirmed no permissions are necessary.

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.

The most recent water bill was based on an estimate, resulting in a charge of £12.73 when set against the credit on the account of £37.10. A further meeting reading will be submitted in late June.

Parish Trees

Acacia Tree Services undertook their interim inspection in early June (see report WPC.EC.26.07.06).

Defibrillators

Replacement batteries have been purchased for both defibrillators, together with safe life rescue kits and internal motion sensor lights.

With thanks to Cllrs A & K Grimes, a new motion sensor light has been fitted above the defibrillator cabinet at the Firestation, Clopton Green.