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 • Circular bench around oak tree • Refurbishment of Skatepark	September '26 February '27 September '26 July '26 April '26
	• Increasing accessibility to grave space records to Cllrs • Work to damaged Memorials where no deed holders found	Work is progressing well on this with all burial and Exclusive Rights of Burial records uploaded to new software and New Cemetery largely mapped. Ad hoc
	• Upgrades to play areas • Work to parish trees • Cleaning of Village Sign • Reserved grave space marking • Posts @ Coltsfoot Green	June '26 August '26 August '26 April '26 Agreed at July meeting not required

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. An inspection in late April identified that some of the saplings would benefit from watering and the WI team was advised. They have since reported that many of the saplings have died in the summer heatwave, and they would prefer to delay planting of fruit trees until such time as rainwater collection and storage for the site has been facilitated.

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.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
October 2026

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 September and October reports on play areas identified a number of low risk issues, reported under WPC.EC.26.11.04).

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 reported. The clerk submitted a request for refurbishment of the clock to the recent call out by the BBC's "Repair Shop".

Bowling Green

The most recent water bill was based on an estimate, resulting in a charge of £6.50 when set against the credit on the account of £23.17, leaving a credit on the account of £16.67. A further meeting reading will be submitted in late June.

Parish Trees

Acacia Tree Services undertook their interim inspection in early June and work which was scheduled for late July was unfortunately delayed but has been completed.

Defibrillators

Replacement batteries have been fitted for both defibrillators with thanks to Cllr A Grimes.

Table Top Tomb at All Saints Churchyard

In early September a routine inspection of memorials at All Saints Churchyard identified damage to a Tabletop Tomb. Thanks go out to Cllrs A and K Grimes for taping off the tomb with hazard tape.

Two quotes were sought and received from stonemasons, and in consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council, the clerk approved the work to repair the tomb under delegated authority. The work to the tomb has now been completed.

Figure 1: Tomb before repair

Figure 2: Tomb after repair

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
October 2026