

# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

## Cemetery Group Report

### Full Council September 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

1. Cemetery work party August 29<sup>th</sup>

Weeding of gravel memorial garden  
Cutting back bramble along entry drive

2. Update from ESS

Lime tree avenue suckers being pruned back (second week September) by hand  
Sub soil bunker emptied as requested by A Westover

3. Next Cemetery Working Group

Date for next working group will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10am.  
Anne has notified Cemetery working group; Ian Webster, Linda Merriam, Cllr Gloria Creasey and Mike Hawes.  
Cllr French to attend too.

4. Taken from Minutes from E & L working group August 12<sup>th</sup>

Cllr French is keen to see if there can be cost savings on grass cutting by removing kerbs from some graves and levelling out areas of grass. The parish council may be minded to invest in these works asap if they then save on maintenance costs.

Anne requested further funding for tree management particularly to focus on shaping the holly and large oak trees near the Bier House.  
See separate tree report

Topsoil storage area is needed for use with grave topping up.

Gapping of box hedge where affected by blight is needed.

There was discussion of artificial tributes and it was agreed that ways of phasing out use was the best way forward. Further advice will be taken from ESS on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

WMPC need to remove all debris as per the Cemetery Regulations, if not removed by family/friends. The time period could be reduced from 6 months.

New signage to highlight snowdrop areas and artificial flowers will be needed.

Anne to follow up with Clerk/Deputy Clerk following, wording on bulb areas previously supplied.

Litter collection is becoming critical along with other tasks listed for the cemetery for a grounds maintenance/operative role, as below from June 2024 minutes:

*Cemetery: Litter, tidy ups, gravel weeding in memorial garden, hedge pruning especially box, tidy graves, levels to refine (soil add, soil flatten), help with tree protection (deer!)*

5. Tree work proposals to be addressed separately

Dead Hawthorn (planted for Mrs Turner) may need to be removed, tree may re-grow from rootstock. Liaison with family is underway.

6. Bird boxes being refreshed by S Exton

7. Winter tasks to be finalised in later September:

Further bulb planting. Can WMPC fund this, approx. £100 for another batch of snowdrops?

Add ferns to log stack

Box hedge replacement (use privet) Approx £100

8. **I request a total of £200 to deal with replacement box and more bulb planting**

9. **Topsoil will incur further cost which we can discuss with ESS on 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

A Westover Tree Warden

11<sup>th</sup> September 2024