

# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

April 2023

## 1. Cemetery

Work parties being undertaken on last Thursday of each month to undertake the regular extra conservation management work; tree care, bramble and elder clearance, tidying rubbish, collecting old wreaths, tidying up Bier House (inside). New planting of trees, hedge plants and protecting from rabbit damage. Mulch/wood chip spreading around trees. March work party achieved 12 volunteer hours.

### Rabbits (February update)

Rabbit activity increasing as there were no control measures put in place last year, quote for control from Norse was not actioned. Note previous two reports addressing this matter. Damage from rabbits include direct damage to trees (roots and bark stripping), young hedges, undermining stonework, 'spreading' memorial flowers, grass sward/holes in the ground, and digging/eating bulbs. Burrows are located at the west end of the cemetery under and around mature trees. All damage is costly and incurs extra volunteer time to remedy. Plastic tree protection must be upgraded and replaced and is not attractive (all donated materials). Holes in ground and damaged stonework can lead to volunteer and visitor safety issues. Damage to young planting including donated trees is costly.

Norse have updated their quote for rabbit burrow gassing Feb 2023; 2 visits for £450. Gassing using pellets is the usual form of control where it is not possible to shoot, trap or use ferrets. Burrows are filled in after second visit and the ground levelled.

An informal verbal quote of approx. £1000 has been provided by a local pest control company (for trapping).

Hayward Farms, James Hayward is willing to shoot but this will cost some £20 per hour, unknown time element and not acceptable to shoot within the cemetery boundary. Burrows will not be filled by this measure.

Update: Mr. Bilsberry Clopton uses ferrets at Potsford Farm and can come to WM cemetery. However the time to use ferrets in the burrows is September to October. Cost likely to be £150 per day/visit. Total price can be confirmed but two/three visits likely to be sufficient.

### Update April

Rabbits we need to discuss options and agree a way forward. My recommendation is that we ask Haywards to shoot over next months and commission Mr Bilsbury to clear the burrows in Autumn.

### 'Paddock'

Consider removing barbed wire fence within the cemetery; the boundary to former paddock, now being cut.

A better understanding on the role/tasks and schedule undertaken of/by the handyman in the cemetery would be helpful for volunteers.

Can handyman remove barbed wire and at a lower price and remove decayed flowers and wreaths? Volunteers could assist with this.

## Snowdrops

Cost of snowdrop bulbs 500 Clare Bulbs £84.25. All planted along southern boundary.

Please let me know if any Councillors wish to view the items referred to or come to a work party.

## **2. Tree works**

Tree works identified in specification circulated on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

### **Cemetery**

One quote received from AB Trees following a site meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**£1,130.00 all arising to be chipped and stored in the bunker for use as mulch. Two days work.**

Quotes to be updated when two more received.

Cemetery tree work could be take place in Autumn/Winter 2023. No immediate safety issues.

### **Church Pightle Green**

Holm oak quote, one received AB Trees £710.00 for work to make tree safe, take off care home roof and create attractive shape. One day plus contact with UK Power networks and Cathena Care. I have already notified them that we intend cutting the tree back from their flat roof and site area.

### **Recommendation**

I propose that WMPC approve lowest quote for work once three have been received.

However as this is a tree safety matter you may wish to proceed with AB quote and accept this promptly.

UK Power Networks will need to cut off supply (no charge) to enable works to proceed.

### **Village Hall Playing Field**

Quote to prune three field maple trees to rear of 2 Birch Close (due to neighbour concerns). This work is not essential and could be delayed to late 2023, as a better time of year to prune field maple. Arisings to be chipped and deposited at the cemetery in the bunker.

**AB quote received £565.00 One day rate.**

### **UPDATE tree works**

**I have met Shaun Wright to discuss all tree works on the three sites.**

**I await a quote from SW.**

**I still await a quote from Norse particularly with respect to the cemetery.**

**Most work will be needed in Autumn. At this stage I suggest we carry out hedge and tree management on the whole northern boundary of the VH playing field (using day rates supplied).**

## **3. Other updates for WMPC**

### **Village Hall Planters (from February)**

Happy to help with planting for the four new planters (ESC New Burdens Fund).

I have spoken/met with Philip Tallent and discussed a suitable approach. We also discussed watering and 'ash trays'. I am happy to make a start on sourcing plants. Hopefully some will be donated too.

### **March/April update**

VH CIO has asked Mr Flavell to look into cost provision.  
To date this has not been agreed.

Costs set out below: these are maximum as I have received a donation from an anonymous source.

### **Costs emailed to WMPC/CIO Village Hall Planters**

Two still need to be planted  
(Two have been seeded by a volunteer).

We plan to plant two shrubs plus 6 perennials in each planter.

Cost likely to be:

Shrubs 4 x £8 max = £32.00

Perennials 6 x £6 max = £36.00

**Total maximum £68.00**

Given the planters have been empty for some time it would be really good to get this planting carried out ASAP.

Labour from myself and J Greenhalgh **will be free.**

Planters will be cared for by volunteers.

**Recommendation for WMPC to agree costs and allow planting to proceed in time for the May Kings Coronation.**

### **Church Pightle Green**

Jennie Greenhalgh has offered to assist with sourcing three new fruit/flowering trees.  
Two trees have been planted in March 2023.

I am happy to provide a 4ft lime tree (home grown in pot) to plant (WI hornbeam has died) at the Coronation Event Monday May 8th.

Lime tree to be planted and funded (£8) through Coronation event funds.

### **Footpaths Warden**

Simon Harrington and I have commenced discussion and work on walks leaflet amendments.

**Markets: Piece written for Parish newsletter:**

## **MARKETS ON THE HILL**

**Our markets take place in the historic market square, on The Hill.**

Dates for the two larger markets are:

**Summer** Market Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 9am until 3pm

**Winter Festive** Market Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 9am until 2pm (times to be confirmed)

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**Weekly morning markets** (Wednesday and Saturday), are often small but provide an additional opportunity to buy produce and other items.

**Wednesdays:** vegetable & flowering plants will be available from Etheridge Nurseries (return later in April), the Cheese and Pie Man and DPC Fish (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays).

**Saturday:** Newbourne Vegetables, Quince Tree Preserves and often more.

Occasional stalls on either day include clothing, Lavender Crafts, handmade cards, Bric-a-Brac and books.

These markets supplement our range of shops and refreshment facilities in and around the square; R&S Hardware, Elizabeth Hospice, Pharmacy, Revett & Sons Butchers, McColls, Inspirations, Suffolk Sense, Post Office and store and the COOP. Café 46 and Tea Pot Cafe provide a welcome rest and refreshment. Flaming Fryer, New Peach Bower and The Bengal provide food and meals.

To book a market stall space (own table/and cover needed) please contact:

[wickhammarketparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wickhammarketparishclerk@gmail.com)

Recommend that Poster and text is added to WMPC web site.  
I can then email out a link to all my contacts from previous markets.

**Cllr Anne Westover**  
Tree warden and Cemetery Group

13<sup>th</sup> April 2023