

War Memorial inspection

Cllr. L Thornton met with the Managing Director of the War Memorial Conservation Company (who has 42 years of experience as a stone mason specialising in War Memorial restoration) on 16th August for the planned inspection of the War Memorial. A number of concerns and issues were discussed, to be looked at and reported on as part of the inspection.

A full report will be forthcoming, but an initial interim report immediately following the inspection has been emailed to PPC, worded as follows:

‘I have carried out a thorough inspection of the memorial now and will send an updated report as soon as possible.

You will be pleased to know there was nothing of any over-riding concern discovered on the memorial. There are some clear signs of “over-aggressive” pressure washing but hopefully if this can be avoided in the future it hasn’t caused major problems with the inscription face although it has accelerated the general weathering of the masonry surfaces by a few years. High-pressure washing can erode the softer elements of the limestone leaving the harder elements raised leaving a more “sugary” texture to the surfaces which in turn become more inviting for vegetational growth and trap other debris and pollution which in-turn helps accelerate further deterioration.’

Village Hall car park trees

Cllr. D Thornton met with ENPA tree specialist on Tuesday 08th August 2023. We are still waiting for a full report. A brief verbal report is as follows:

The four trees at the top of the village hall car park are in the ENPA Conservation Area and are therefore covered by tree order regulations. All four trees require some work, but the larger Lime tree nearer to the farm requires more work due to poor management in the past. All work will need to be completed when the trees are not in leaf. A planning application for all of this work will need to be submitted and approved before it can commence. It was suggested that non aggressive trimming of the low hanging branches of the trees would be beneficial, and this has been undertaken.

Old School Centre

The boiler service booked for Thursday 7th September, to coincide with Village Hall boiler service, has been completed. Cllr D Thornton discussed a number of issues with the boiler service engineer. It transpires that most of the issues have been highlighted previously but possibly not recorded or transferred. The problem of the smoking chimney is probably due to the self-cleaning function that happens twice a day, but this will not always cause smoke as it depends upon how much debris/ash is cleaned. Also, smoke will be present when the boiler first lights until combustion is established. It was highlighted that the chimney at the OSC is not ideal, it is not tall enough, it should not have a cap on top and the two 90-degree bends in the exhaust flue do not help. The village hall chimney is taller, without a cap and the bends are not as problematic. The engineer will highlight these issues in his report.

Annual fire extinguisher inspection/service booked for Thursday 7th September in agreement with Visitor Centre and Library was completed. A question was raised about the colour tags and whether a previous inspection had been carried out in the Library that had not been recorded. This annual inspection should be added to the Annual Cycle.

A fallen tile on the roof at the rear of the library was replaced by a contractor in a very timely manner.

Light bulbs on the ceiling in the library need replacing. Due to the height, this is not a simple procedure and a tower/platform has been hired for the purpose previously. We could consider buying a lightweight moveable tower/platform for future use by PPC and others such as the Visitor Centre. The viability/cost of this is to be investigated.

The FIT (Feed-in tariff) arrangements for the Old School Centre are being investigated by Cllr. L Thornton.

Cllr. D Thornton has arranged with the electrical contractor to return in November to complete the FRA work.
(Expenditure approved)

Inspection and quotation required from alarm system contractor also from Fire Risk assessment to be arranged.
(Expenditure approved)

Parish Room door lock to be replaced to comply with FRA. (Expenditure approved)

The Porlock Flag has been delivered to be raised for the 'off season' once the flagpole halyard delivered, to be ordered online using new credit card. (Expenditure approved)

Library kitchen hot water system to be inspected and assessed.

New library risk assessments are ongoing.

Parish room metal letter box has been replaced as current one leaked.

Hawkcombe Cemetery and the closed Chuchyard at St. Dubricius

A Risk Assessment of the Hawkcombe Cemetery and the closed Chuchyard at St. Dubricius have been carried out and full reports will be given at the October meeting in line with the Annual Cycle. PPC is liaising with Fine Memorials regarding the memorial assessment and with ENPA regarding the tree survey, both in the Cemetery and Churchyard, and with St Dubricius PCC regarding the care of the Churchyard.

Doverhay toilets

There is a leak from one of the toilets which has been investigated, and we are awaiting the contractor's quote.

Still outstanding:

- High Bank car park
Rectify the fitting/support of drainage grill at entrance to car park. Contractor required. (Expected expenditure less than £200)
Some weeding in bays/tarmac required.
- Doverhay Toilets
Disabled toilet, toilet roll holder damaged and requires replacement.
Honesty box surround of the non-disabled toilet has been forced open and money has been removed, rectification work required.
- Seating
Charlotte's memorial seat on Dunster steep is in need of repair as dangerous to sit on. Carpenter contacted. Need to contact parents and discuss repair.
Three bench seats in cemetery require rectification/replacement. Hazard tape has been used to highlight to the public.
- Hawkcombe Playground
Broken bench needs to be removed as beyond repair. See item 11. vi of the Agenda for further proposals
- Public and staff toilets
Covered bins for sanitary items and similar needed. Open top bins are only suitable for disposal of hand towels, etc.
Emergency pull cords should be removed if not attached to anything.
Consumables to be eco-friendly wherever possible going forward. Suppliers to be researched urgently as current supplier no longer available in our area.