

War Memorial

The restoration work commissioned by the Council has been completed and the results have been very well received by the public. During the restoration work, subsidence of an area of the cobbles to the left of the cross (as looking at the Memorial) was discovered. Photos from the inspection in August 2023 show that this subsidence has occurred more recently. Enquiries were made to Wessex Water and Highways to establish whether any works in the road by the Memorial could have been responsible. No works are recorded and there is no visual evidence of any on further inspection. The cause of the subsidence is therefore unclear although it may have been due to excessive rain this winter/spring on the surface, which was previously in poor repair with missing mortar, allowing the water to ingress and affect the substrate below the cobbles. It will be necessary to lift an area of the cobbles to investigate the cause of the subsidence, inspect the amount of substrate missing and, if deemed adequate as a repair, to back fill with ballast and relay cobbles. A quote from the specialist restoration company has been provided. However, if a bigger subsidence problem is revealed, further costs may be incurred.

Old School Centre

There appears to be some confusion with Coomber Security the company that provide OSC intruder security and fire alarm systems. It seems that the Intruder alarm system was installed primarily for the library when the library was governed by Somerset council. Even though the library has been a community library for almost ten years it looks like there is still confusion. Coomber Security have undertaken work for PPC and invoiced PPC. They are in the process of installing 4G communications to move away from the library phone line for monitoring. The door security system covers all of the OSC but historically was installed for the library. I suggest some sort of meeting to sort out this confusion which can address both the intruder alarm and the fire alarm systems.

There was a meeting with the Plumber that PPC are currently employing, to advise on items below:

OSC heating system upgrades:

We went over the current operation and the conclusion was that another zone is required to facilitate control from the parish room. Currently there is no control from the parish room, also on occasions when controls have been set from other parts of the OSC, heating has been provided when not required, wasting energy and money. The Plumber would like to consult with a colleague who is more familiar with this type of system and move on from there. As we could not access the VC and things are changing in November this will be progressed in a timely way.

Library hot water system:

Various options were discussed and the most efficient way is to replace the existing old large water heater with a smaller pressurized/on demand heater. The Plumber will provide quotes for various heaters and options.

The library requires a sign to be installed on the outside of the library to increase the visibility. (Expenditure expected to be under £200)

Electrical Installation OSC – Crosswells have requested one day to do the works at the OSC, they have advised that electric supply will need to be off for almost a whole a day. As it is season, we are suggesting this work be done in November when other maintenance works will be carried out and the VC will have left the building.

Hawkcombe Cemetery

A site visit by the newly formed Cemetery committee members has yet to be arranged.

The bin at the Cemetery will be put out for emptying every three weeks by the Caretaker.

The memorial inspection expected in March 2024 has been delayed by the contractor. New notice period signs will need to be put up as soon as a new date is provided.

Doverly Manor

Following confirmation that the Clerk can not request a quote on behalf of the Doverly Manor Committee for property and PL insurance, this is being undertaken by the DMC. It has been confirmed that DMC have secured their own insurance from 4th June 2024. A valuation assessment of the building and land for insurance purposes has been undertaken. The Museum provides its own contents insurance.

Doverhay Toilets

New honesty boxes for both toilets are required following recent vandalism. (Expenditure expected under £200)

Hand dryer in disabled toilet to replace broken one has been ordered and will need to be fitted.

Repair needed to fix leak in the small toilet was not possible so replacement bowl and cistern will be fitted. This is to be done within the next month.

High Bank Car Park

Two fence panels between the car park and the fire station and the post between need replacing. Quote to be considered on Agenda. Responsibility for the fence is being confirmed prior to authorising repairs.

St. Dubricius Churchyard

A finial which has been accidentally broken off will be rewelded, expenditure approved.

A broken bench has been reported, to be marked with hazard tape and ownership established as repair required.

Ongoing:

- The flagpole needs a bracket for refixing so it can be reinstalled – Cllr. D Thornton and the PPC Caretaker to undertake. Cllr. L Thornton to contact a local craftsperson regarding the repair of the bird table.
- A review of the positioning/purpose of the post by the gate to the picnic area/orchard garden has been undertaken as part of the OSC risk assessment. It needs to remain in place but should be repainted. This has been made more visible by wrapping hazard tape around it.
- Lockable cupboard lock in the office replacement will now be deferred until full security review is undertaken in the Autumn after the current tenant in the Visitor Centre has moved out.
- National Grid has been contacted regarding the electrical supplies to the building – deferred until the Autumn.

Still outstanding:

- OSC
Light bulbs on the ceiling in the library need replacing. Storage for a lightweight moveable tower/platform for future use by PPC is being investigated so that PPC could purchase. Shed behind OSC will be available by 1st November 2024. This is to be arranged using the equipment available from the village hall.
- Doverhay Toilets
Disabled toilet - toilet roll holder damaged and requires replacement.
- Seating
Three bench seats in cemetery require rectification/replacement. Hazard tape has been used to highlight to the public. Carpenter contacted, awaiting quotes.
6 benches (1 on the High Street, 2 at the OSC and 3 at St Dubricius Churchyard) need sanding down and oiling or revarnishing. This work will be timetabled and undertaken by the PPC Caretaker who has provided feedback on best course of action.
- Public and staff toilets
Covered bins for sanitary items and similar needed. However, PPC would need a contract to dispose of the clinical waste.
- Damage caused by tree roots to path behind St. Dubricius Church
ENPA have provided advice regarding the damage caused to the path behind the Church due to tree roots primarily from the oak in St. Dubricius First School. Suggestions including retarmacking some patches, filling

cracks with liquid tarmac and/or using temporary coverings to make the footpath safer to walk on are all being considered.