

Members are requested to:

- NOTE the background information.
- CONSIDER the recommendation

Background from September Minutes

22/69 The Mews – Grass Cutting

After many years, following a review of land ownership Wiltshire Council has stopped cutting land that does not belong to it, this includes a strip of land at The Mews. Residents of The Mews have asked if the Parish Council can take on the cutting in the interim while ownership is investigated, as it looks very unkempt and not in keeping with the neighbourhood.

Members pointed out that there are many areas in the Parish not cut by Wiltshire Council, in these cases either the residents cut them, or they are left wild. Members were reluctant to commit to the cutting of the area, as residents of those other residential areas not being cut would have to contribute for this residential area to be cut through the precept.

Members AGREED that more research was required into its ownership, Clerk to make enquiries and to find out how much it would be to cut it. Councillors Sharp and Suleman offered to cut the area for the residents over the weekend.

Wiltshire Council Response

Comments are the same as at the last meeting. Any areas of land not adopted as part of the public highway or land in Wiltshire Council's ownership, will no longer be maintained.

Land Registry and Wiltshire Council Responsibilities

Searches do not bring up this area as being registered/ adopted by any party. The Council can access the Wiltshire Council Explorer Map which shows their areas of responsibility.

Other Areas within the Parish

Since the last meeting, residents of Chestnut/Meadow Springs have also asked about grass verges. It would seem that there are several places that are no longer being mowed by Wiltshire Council. Residents have been advised of the reasons why WC has stopped mowing, they are going to mow the areas near them. It is not yet known how many other verges are affected in the Parish.

Before Wiltshire Council reviewed its services, there were many verges/areas within the Parish that were not maintained by them. These areas are either looked after by residents or left as natural habitat.

Recommendations for Consideration

The Parish Council will not take on the grass management of any unadopted/unregistered land.

The Parish Council has no authority or control over unadopted/unregistered areas, therefore cannot object to neighbours cutting these areas of grass.