

**Subject: Maintenance of Cemetery Wall on Back Lane**

**Date: 4/1/24**

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## 1. Planning Maintenance of the Wall

### 2. Discussion

Some areas of the wall are missing stones. Vegetation means that much of the wall can't be seen clearly. There are two main areas which require repair – approximately 1.5 and 2.5 metres long.

The maintenance will require closure of Back Lane - Permission from DCC. Traffic Management.

Cllr Luckens met with Devon Rural Skills Trust member in December 2023. Repair of the wall would not be a project for them. DRST and Cllr Luckens agreed that the wall was not in danger of imminent collapse, although a few stones are quiet loose.

His advice was to repair, possibly using a little mortar and a few new stones. Probably one to two days work. Should then be good for many years.



The Clerk met with the contractor who has been chosen to repair the Churchyard wall. Their preferred approach, to reduce long-term maintenance, was to use a digger on the wall to create a slope. The hedging would be removed. Install a fence to create a safety barrier. I suggest that this approach would have a negative effect on habitat and aesthetics, and that the maintenance requirements do not appear to justify the increased complexity of the project.

### 3. Options

#### (a) Repair

- i. Close the Lane for two days
- ii. Quote for two days work. Start with most affected areas. Do as much work as possible in the time available.
- iii. Aim to obtain quotes for February meeting.

#### (b) Digger to create slope and Install Fence

- i. Close the Lane during the works. Duration TBC.
- ii. Two contractors would be required at minimum – digger & fence.

#### (c) No action - What would be the consequences if no action was taken? BPC has an obligation to manage its assets and reduce risk.

4. Note that the above Churchyard wall contractor is no longer available. Assistance is requested to locate suitable contractors.