

To receive a report from the Service Delivery Department and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

Report to:

Joint Burial Board

Date of Report:

28/09/2026

Officer writing the report:

Service Delivery Manager

Officer Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the report and consider weedkilling methods on the pathways within the church grounds.

Officers recommendation if the Committee are in favour of the Services department undertaking this work would be to consider the cost of £18.99 for 5L of the Enviro Works Treatment and to monitor the results for effectiveness.

Report Summary:

Grass Cutting:

All grass throughout the Cemetery grounds have been cut during September. The Wildflower areas have reached the end of their seasonal cycle and have been strimmed back accordingly.

The Church Section (AC) and LCA & LC were cut three times this year and the wildflower sections of OSA, OSB and OSC have recently undergone their annual end of summer cut.

Due to the high temperatures this year, the grass has been dormant and required less cutting than previous years. However, the grass is recovering well from the drought and seems to be growing with a renewed vigour that may require the whole area being cut back at least once during October / November.



Below pictures from recent grass cutting for reference:



Before

After



General Maintenance:

Weeds are coming up along the edges of the new tarmac around the Church. Staff have advised that the area was previously strimmed, prior to the new tarmac being laid. Concerns have been identified by staff regarding the potential damage strimming this area could cause to the new surface.

Consideration is required as to whether the Joint Burial Board wish for this work to be carried out by the Service Delivery Team.

Photo of pathways:



I am aware of the agreement made by Saltash Town Council not to undertake weed spraying within the Town due to environmental harm that the chemicals can cause.

However, the time and effort required for manual weed removal must be balanced against its effectiveness.

There are some alternatives for example using a wire brush, this again does not treat the cause, but it does temporarily improve the area. This method again takes time and resources away from other work.

An alternative to this would be to consider a proven eco weed killer that can destroy growth without resorting to harsh chemicals options listed in budget overview section of this report.

These products may not be as effective as the standard Glyphosate based weed treatments, but they are an environmentally friendly alternative for consideration.

Effective Eco-Friendly weed killers use natural acids like vinegar or citrus based citric acids, or corn gluten meal for prevention. Whilst they are more environmentally friendly, they do still require the same safe methods of use as conventional glyphosates.

Waste Management:

All bins on the site are emptied weekly to maintain cleanliness and prevent overflow. Saltash Town Council continues to absorb this cost.

General Weekly Health & Safety:

Regular health and safety checks continue to ensure operational areas remain compliant, hazards are promptly identified, and corrective action is taken where necessary. There are currently no matters to report.

Saltash Town Council Headstone Safety Audit:

No further actions have been carried out on the Headstone Audit at St Stephens Churchyard.

There have been no significant work/ projects undertaken in the Churchyard during the summer months to note.

Budget Overview:

Item: Enviro Works rated best overall rating from the Good Housekeeping Guide

Cost: £18.99

Quantity: 5L

Alternative brands are available such as:

Item: Roundup

Cost: £30.68

Quantity: 5L

Item: Hytrol

Cost: £7.68

Quantity: 1L

Item: Weedkil Glyphosate Free

Cost: £13.99

Quantity: 1L

Budgets

Budget Availability: £2,041.00

Budget Codes: 6104 BB General Site Maintenance

Committed Spend: £0

Signature of Officer:

Lynn Clarke

Acting Services Manager