

	Full Council
Date	14 September 2026
Agenda Item	7d

To consider further repairs to the churchyard wall

During the course of the building work to repair the damage done by a passing lorry, the Clerk was called by the builders to look at 2 other areas of the wall in need of attention. One is the main curved wall beside the small roundabout at the end of Colchester Road, where the specialised bricks in the top half of the wall have shifted forward towards the road. If this is not dealt with, the likelihood is that this part of the wall – and its expensive and specialised curved bricks - will fall into the road. This would cause huge disruption to traffic, and would destroy the very expensive bricks. The builders have suggested that they could prevent this happening by tackling the bricks which have shifted from the inside of the churchyard, carefully removing the shifted bricks, and replacing them correctly in line with the rest of the wall. This could be done safely from within the churchyard, rather than severely disrupting traffic, and incurring the cost of doing so.



On the left of the photo, it is possible to see the correct position of all bricks. To the right of the photo, it can be seen that the curved bricks have shifted

St Andrews Church, Halstead

1. Wall opposite #12 Parsonage Street

Take down and rebuild / replace brick course (2 metres long x 9 courses down)

Labour £1800

Materials (estimated) £200

Sand, cement, lime commercial powdered oxide colorant, shingle, wall weep vents. Bricks / copings where required.

Total £2000

2. Roundabout, corner of Head Street and Colchester Road

Take down and rebuild / replace brick course (9 metres long x 3 courses down)

Labour £3150

Materials (estimated) £350

Sand, cement, lime commercial powdered oxide colorant, shingle, wall weep vents. Bricks / copings where required.

Total £3500

Both walls are subject to possible collapse? This staged intervention will prevent any possible injury, disruption or major loss of dated historical brickwork?

Having surveyed the roundabout (Quote 2.) myself, Dave and Mark have agreed that the best course of action with minimal disruption to the public highway and town is by removing and rebuilding the wall from within the church grounds.

The historical design and stonework present no challenges to my myself and my team as we have completed works on your behalf on five previous occasions.

With thanks, I present these 2 quotes for your consideration.



These photos show the state of the wall by the entrance in Parsonage Street. Some of the curved bricks are loose, the wall is tilting and has been patched up at an earlier date.

The reason for using this company is that they are experienced and specialised in repairing historic churchyards walls and have already managed 5 repair jobs to these walls to a very high standard, for far more reasonable charges than suggested by other companies who have looked at the repair jobs.

Recommendation:

That HTC agrees to further work on the churchyard wall, to prevent collapse. This can be covered by Earmarked reserves for major churchyard maintenance.

That HTC agrees that in these circumstances the following relevant provisions within the Financial Regulations apply allowing this work to be authorised without offering it to other companies.

5.9. where the value is between £500 and £3,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk/RFO shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.

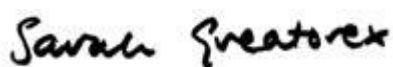
5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:

- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
- ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
- iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
- iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.

5.13. When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.

The reasons why it may not be advisable or practical to seek 3 quotes for a particular job include the following:

- Where the work to be done is the result of a recurrent problem
- Where a particular contractor has for many years handled all aspects of the upkeep of a building
- Where the matter is extremely urgent and needs to be attended to, to prevent further damage
- Where the work to be done is minimal and not likely to cost much
- Where the choice is between a well-known local contractor of proved efficiency and a completely untried contractor from elsewhere



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk