

**Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council  
Retaining wall, Milton Abbot**

Since the last meeting action has been taken, as approved in Minute No 38:16/17, to progress the issue of the required repairs to the retaining wall;

Devon Building Control have visited the site and briefly inspected the wall, from which it was concluded that the wall did not appear to be in immediate danger of collapse. It was suggested that the Council arrange for the wall to be carefully cleared of vegetation and loose stonework repaired so that the wall can be monitored by an independent Building Surveyor for movement.

It has been established from English Heritage that the wall is not specifically listed in its own right, nor is it mentioned in the listing details of the Church. Therefore it was assumed by the Clerk that the wall was not classified as being listed. Graham Lawrence, Planning Officer, had been contacted in light of this information and asked to advise if he perceived this differently, to which he has not responded to this aspect of the email. Therefore it can be reasonably concluded that the wall is not classified as being listed.

On the assumption that the wall is not listed, but is within a conservation area, it has also been established from Graham Lawrence that repairs to repoint and replace missing or loose stones will not need planning approval. On passing by the area recently Graham Lawrence has taken the time to have a quick look at the wall and states, 'BCP' being Building Control;

*'I stopped by last week and had a look. Clearly there has been movement and there is potential for structural failure in places but I am pleased that BCP have looked and given a view.'*

Following the advice from Building Control and in light of Graham Lawrence's comments, Mr Murrain has been contacted with a view to obtaining a quotation to remove the vegetation and re-bed loose stones, although the amount of work required will be difficult to establish until the vegetation has been cleared. The quote is awaited.

A site meeting was held by the Clerk and Peter Judd, a Building Surveyor, on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 to ascertain costs for the monitoring of the wall for movement, a quotation is awaited and will hopefully be available for the meeting. It has also been advised that the ivy and vegetation is cut back and killed off rather than being pulled out of or off the wall as this could dislodge more stones and exacerbate the issues. Currently water is coming out through the wall between gaps in the stones and repointing with standard concrete would hold the water in, any repointing therefore should be done using a lime based mortar. It is hard to tell with the vegetation covering the wall but there are at least two areas, see photo of one specific area below as an example, which require coping stones to be removed and reset.

A Licence 171, to store materials on the Highway and which is free of charge to Council's, may be required for repair work to be undertaken.

