

Drainage of marshes

Background: As landlord of the Town Marshes STC has a responsibility for maintaining the culverts on the marshes, which are a key part of the overall drainage system. A detailed report on the drainage of the marshes, commissioned by STC in 2015, attached a high priority to clearing the pipes and culverts which allow the main Town Marshes to drain towards the sluice near the Bailey Bridge.

At the Council Meeting on March 22nd 2016 it was agreed that 'STC should now move to have the pipes P2 (and possibly the culvert C2) on the harbour road cleared' and it was resolved to investigate the cost to carry out this action.

Duncans and Sons were asked if they could estimate for this work and Mark Aldred and Cllr Michael Rowan-Robinson met on the harbour road to discuss the work. Currently just one of the pipes is working. Mark took the view that he would need three men and various equipment on the site, that in the first instance he would estimate for a day's work, and that they would seek to locate and uncover the entrances to the pipes and attempt to clear them. He also thought that it might be necessary to move a small willow tree which has grown up on the east side of the road close to where the pipes emerge. He has given an estimate for these works of £750+VAT .

Natural England have been informed that we intend to clear the pipes P2.

Action: The Council is asked to approve this expenditure from the budget for work on marshes of £3000 provided for 2016/17.