

Background

There has been an ongoing issue over a number of years (initially identified in 2022) with rabbits from New Recreation Ground and the Melbourn Village College (MVC) field causing damage to private property on The Moor.

Previous mitigation works undertaken at the affected property and on New Recreation Ground reduced numbers; however, rabbit populations have increased again and damage is recurring.

Current Situation

Pest control contractors advise that the rabbit population is currently very high and not under control.

Rabbits are burrowing along the hedge line between MVC and New Recreation Ground, with an extensive network of tunnels across the area.

Effective control will require coordinated action across all affected landowners.

Proposed Actions

The current pest control plan includes:

- Use of long nets and traps between now and the first frost
- Use of ferrets following the first frost
- Engagement with the affected resident to inspect damage and agree appropriate action on their property
- Contact with MVC to request corresponding action on their land

The contractor has advised that sustained and ongoing work will be required to reduce the population and limit further damage.

Financial Consideration

The Committee is asked to consider approval of up to £150 to cover specialist materials required for ongoing pest control works, which the Parish Council is unable to source directly.

Payment would be made upon receipt of an invoice from the pest control contractor.