

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on
Thursday 22nd September 2011
in the Committee Room, Clayport Street Alnwick at 6.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs K Moore (Chairman), S Allcroft, E Blakey, J Bell and S Walton,

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

CEM 11/10. Apologies: Cllrs K Gray and B Thompson

CEM 11/11 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared

CEM 11/12. Current Budget Position

The clerk circulated a copy of the expenditure and estimates for 2011/12 as at 21st September 2011. Expenditure for the year is projected to be £52,000, this is £11,000 over budget and is as a result of the purchase of a new tractor which is being funded out of reserves. Income for the year stood at £11,000 which is less than projected and if the trend continues income could be £5,000 less than budgeted. This will result in a corresponding reduction in reserves. Councillors discussed the budget in detail and requested that the clerk investigates a) if it would be cheaper to install a water meter for the lodge and store, b) if savings could be made on the trade waste contract and c) review the costs associated with the use of the chapel. The clerk outlined that the list of outstanding works would need to be prioritised and spread out into the next financial year in the light of the reduction in income levels.

RESOLVED: to receive the budget update.

CEM 11/13. Outstanding works update

- A quote had been received for further pointing works to the wall at the southern end of South Road. This will be held for now.
- The new footpath in section 38.
This work was still to be programmed.
- Resurface the cemetery entrance road and cobbled area adjacent to the office entrance.
This work is still to be programmed.
- Painting of windows and doors at Cemetery Lodge & repainting the cemetery railings. Work is due to commence in the week starting 3rd October.

RESOLVED: The update on the list of outstanding works be noted.

CEM 11/14. Green Burials

At the last meeting of the cemetery committee it was agreed that the clerk would report on green burials. The clerk outlined a number of points about green burials, these included:

- There is no headstone, coffins are biodegradable and graves are marked with a tree bush or an electronic chip.
- There are more than 200 sites across the UK
- Many cemeteries offer green burials as an alternative

- He cited cases in Barnsley where a cemetery had been provided in 2008, but had only been used once and a new one being provided in Scarborough due to the increasing number of requests from the public.
- Hexham Cemetery was also highlighted as one with a woodland burial area and their current schedule of costs were outlined.

Members considered the issue and felt that in the future the new cemetery area may provide an opportunity for an area to be used for green burials, but the demand would first need to be established. This could be the subject to consultation with undertakers and the public.

RESOLVED: to receive the report and to undertake some consultation in the future to establish demand.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm