

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on
Thursday 30th January 2014 in
the Committee Room, Clayport Street Alnwick at 6.15pm.**

Present: Cllrs K Moore (Chairman), S Allcroft, D Farrar, B Grisdale, J Humphries, S Mavin, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Chief Officer & Town Clerk, J Pibworth, Administration Assistant.

CEM13/33. Apologies: None

CEM 13/34. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

CEM 13/35 Cemetery Activity and 2013/14 Budget Update

The Clerk circulated the 2013/14 budget for the Committee with expenditure as at 22nd January 2014. This showed expenditure of £31,966 and income of £25,243. Councillors went through the budget line by line and the budget appeared to be on target for the year. A small overspend of expenditure may occur but this will be covered by increased income. In addition to the budget sheet, year-to-date cemetery activity data was circulated. This showed that there had been 36 burials and 5 ashes interred. Out of the 36 burials, 18 had resulted in new plots being purchased. During the year 10 new plots had been purchased by individuals making burial arrangements. The cemetery chapel had been used on 7 occasions, and 3 burials had resulted in an out of parish surcharge.

RESOLVED: To receive the update.

CEM 13/36. Tree Works update and potential new planting

The clerk reported the outcome of the recent tendering for tree works. The contractor had been awarded to R Blackman at a cost of £3980. A start was planned within the next week. Two of the trees identified for felling may be capable of having part works undertaken; these would be discussed with the contractor on site. Councillor Farrar reported on the possibilities for new tree planting and he proposed that new trees be planted in three areas; along the avenue, on the right-hand side of the avenue overlooking the sawmill Industrial Estate and the left-hand side of the avenue in the older section, He had taken advice on the possible species and circulated proposals which would cost in the region of £500. To facilitate this he proposed that a small silver birch tree on the avenue be removed. Councillors considered the scheme and were in favour of expenditure of up to £500 being committed and for the silver birch tree to be removed. It was agreed that the clerk would meet Councillor Farrar to agree locations. Councillor Moore reported that the request for additional trees from the Woodland Trust was still in abeyance.

RESOLVED: To commit up to £500 on the purchase of new trees and to remove a silver birch tree on the right-hand side of the avenue to help facilitate the new planting scheme.

CEM 13/37. New Area Update

The Clerk reported that he had had a discussion with CDSL regarding carrying out a groundwater audit but had not yet received a quote. Councillors suggested the need to obtain two quotes if possible. The need to progress this was agreed.

RESOLVED: To receive the update and to give delegated powers to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to progress the matter.

CEM 13/38. Chapel of Rest Update

The clerk reported that two areas of wet rot had been discovered in the floor under the back two rows of pews a quote had been obtained from C Bowen, Joiner for £550 and this seemed reasonable. Councillors agreed to proceed with this quote. The works to provide a new soakaway further away from the building was still outstanding.

RESOLVED: To note the update and proceed with the works to the chapel floor.

CEM 13/39. Volunteer Scheme/Friends of the Cemetery

Councillors discussed the need for a regular programme to be introduced as this was probably easier for volunteers and councillors to plan. Councillor Moore highlighted some of the areas that they could get involved in, such as tidying up the roundabout, litter picking, removal of twigs, and tree planting. Councillor Farrar suggested that the new trees could be planted on February 15th. It was agreed to brand the scheme as 'Friends of the Cemetery'.

RESOLVED: That a regular programme be established for the Friends of the Cemetery, starting with Tree Planting on February 15th.

CEM 13/40. Glyphosate free area/Poppy Planting to Commemorate 1914

Councillor Farrar explained that a glyphosate free area had previously been agreed as a pilot and proposed that this could link in with a poppy planting to commemorate 1914. Councillor Allcroft agreed to obtain advice from Tom Pattinson regarding the best way to plant poppies and it was agreed that Councillor Farrar meets with the Clerk to identify a suitable area which could be glyphosate free and also accommodate poppies. It was highlighted that there were a number of World War 1 graves the cemetery.

RESOLVED: To progress poppy planting, linking with the proposed glyphosate free area and Councillor Farrar and the Clerk to agree a suitable area.

CEM 13/41. Any Other Business

Councillor Farrar highlighted that in the old part of the cemetery, on the left-hand side of the avenue, there is a bin that is chained to a tree and causing it damage. The Clerk agreed to look at a better solution

The meeting closed at 7.20pm