

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on Thursday 16th March 2017
in the Mechanics Institute, Percy Street, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs J Humphries (Chair), P Allcroft, S Allcroft, S Bell, S Mavin, K Moore, M Swinbank and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk.

CEM 16/47 Apologies

None.

CEM 16/48 Declarations of Interest

None.

CEM 16/49 Minutes of Last Meeting – to raise any matters not covered by the agenda

None.

CEM 16/50 Cemetery Activity and 2016/17 budget update

ACTIVITY

The Town Clerk circulated the Cemetery year to date activity data as at March 13th. He reported that so far in 2016/17 there had been 47 burials (39 burials and 8 ashes burials) of which 23 had resulted in new plots being purchased (17 in areas 38A/39A/40A, 1 in the natural burial area and 2 in the new consecrated area 37A and 1 in the un-consecrated section of 37A plus 2 free plots in the children's area).

21 plots have been purchased without burial (4 in areas 38A/39A/40A, 4 in the old part, 1 in the ashes area, 7 in the natural burial area and 5 plots (including 1 in the area left un-consecrated) in the new consecrated area). The Chapel had been used on 8 occasions and 8 burials had an out of parish surcharge.

Remaining plots – there are 6 plots which can be purchased in areas 38A/39A/40A (excluding the new consecrated area), 20 in the new row in the old part plus ashes plots.

It is anticipated that the year-end figure will be around 48 burials.

Councillor Humphries thought an additional natural burial area would be needed at some time. The Town Clerk confirmed that a triangular area within the newly consecrated area had been identified for this.

BUDGET

The Town Clerk circulated the 2016/17 Cemetery Income and Expenditure sheet as at March 13th 2017 which showed expenditure at £49,076.35 and income at £49,787.06. He itemised the following lines:

Wages, PAYE – salary and pension payments up to February 2017.

Fuel – end of year figure increased to cover two purchases made in 2016/17. 2017/18 will only have one delivery.

Stationery/Phone – end of year figure will be lower than budget as Cemetery

Lodge phone bill paid for by Cemetery Superintendent.

Rates / Water Rates – NNDR rebate of £2662 is included in the income figure.

Machine Repairs – figure includes expenditure for service/repairs to tractor and Flail since last time.

Grounds – will be higher by the end of March as tree works identified in tree survey will have been carried out. End of year figure will be around £10k.

Grounds (Trade waste) – new contract in place for 2017/18 saving around £150 a year.

New Area – budget used so far is for consecration (fencing, consecration fee, boundary stones, refreshments and gate signs). Remaining path not done yet but asked contractor for date.

The final expenditure figure will be below budget as new path has not yet been done and new tractor has not been purchased although the specification for the new tractor has now been received and quotes will be obtained.

RESOLVED: To note the update and receive the budget figures.

CEM 16/51 Update on Scattering of Ashes area

Councillor Humphries advised councillors that the area identified as the new area for the scattering of ashes has now been cleared. He advised that there was no further update as this stage. Planting would be looked at next and Tom Pattison has been asked to give his opinion on this area. He explained that roses would be purchased in bulk and planted in a holding area of the cemetery then replanted in the scattering ashes area when needed.

CEM 16/52 Update on

a) Building Works

The Town Clerk advised councillors that there was some more pointing to be done. He also reported that some drainage work had been carried next to the Sawmill Estate as a field drain had become blocked and caused some flooding.

The area by the workshop was also being cleared to connect a new drain to the existing soakaway.

b) Tree Works

The Town Clerk advised councillors that the tree works would start on March 21st. Five quotes had been requested, 4 had been received and a quote accepted from Town & Country Tree Surgeons.

c) Tree Planting

The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised councillors that the hedging from the Woodland Trust had arrived and would be planted during April. She explained that 25 trees were having work done to them as part of the tree works including 10 which were being felled. 10 new trees had been ordered to replace these (which she listed for councillors) and confirmed that these would be planted once the tree works were complete. Councillor Swinbank advised

being careful where the new willows were planted. The Assistant to the Town Clerk explained that they were being planted in an area which had previously had willows.

The Town Clerk advised councillors that a tree in area 40A was becoming an issue as it grew, so the three people had been written to asking if they were in agreement to move along the row one space, this would enable the tree to be retained.

RESOLVED: To accept the updates.

CEM 16/53 Any Other Business

Councillor Symmonds reported that an article in The Times had reported that Glyphosate had been cleared of being carcinogenic.

The Town Clerk reported that a couple of issues with the size of kerbstones had occurred. One deed holder had already been written to the other, in area 32A, would need to be written to as the kerbstone encroached onto some of the next grave.

The public meeting closed at 7.59pm