

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting
held on Thursday 19th July 2018
in the St James's Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs S Allcroft (Chair), G Mavin and A Symmonds.

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

CEM 18/08 Apologies

Councillors J Humphries, M Swinbank and C Westendarp.

CEM 18/09 Declarations of Interest

None.

CEM 18/10 Minutes of Last Meeting – to raise any matters not covered by the agenda

CEM18/03 William Davison Grave Marker – The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that Adrian Ions had donated a piece of sandstone to the Town Council to be used for the grave marker. She advised that she had met with Bart Endean, the stonemasons who producing the grave marker, who had advised that the stone would be suitable for the grave marker.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk showed councillors images of how the sandstone grave marker would look with bronze lettering. She also showed them an image of a granite grave marker with copper lettering. Councillors agreed on the sandstone with bronze lettering for the grave marker. The cost of the work has been confirmed as £112. She advised that an appropriate plant would be bought to sit alongside the grave marker.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that the exact location of William Davison's grave had been confirmed. She showed councillors images of the grave location, in area 13A plot 8, which is in the first section on the left hand side of the cemetery.

RESOLVED: To ask Bart Endean to produce the memorial marker at a cost of £115 using the sandstone block and bronze lettering and purchase a suitable plant to sit alongside the grave marker.

CEM 18/11 Cemetery Activity

ACTIVITY

The Town Clerk reported that it had been a quiet period since the last meeting. He advised that there were two funerals booked in for the following week.

He took councillors through the Cemetery activity data as at July 18th.

So far in 2018/19 there had been 12 burials (9 burials and 3 ashes burials). He reported that 4 plots had been purchased with burial (in area 37A).

Remaining plots – Old part area 19A has 15 plots available, the Natural Burial Area has 33 plots available (9 have also been sold but not used); area 37A (consecrated) has 59 plots available, area 37A (un-consecrated) has 16 plots available plus ashes plots.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

CEM 18/12 2018/19 budget update

BUDGET

The Town Clerk took councillors through the budget sheet. Expenditure for 2018/19 is currently £19,539.69 and he noted the following lines:

Wages, PAYE – 3 months wages. Slightly below budget.

Rates/Water Rates - £533.73 expenditure is the final year figure.

Machine repairs – new tractor £8,500 and repairs to JCB hydraulic pump and engine mounting on 2nd tractor £1,266.26.

Grounds – 3 months trade waste; tools £38.48 and new plants for the cemetery £276.47.

Electricity – bills now in but not yet included

Income for 2018/19 is currently £9,486.00 and should be on budget by the end of the year.

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

CEM 18/12 Updates

a) Works

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following:

Pointing - pointing had been done at the Sawmill side at the front of the cemetery.

New area path – contractors are being chased for a date for the path in the new area.

Chapel carpet – needs replacing. Samples will be collected and a new carpet chosen.

b) Planting

The Assistant to the Town Clerk reported on the areas of the Cemetery where planting had taken since the last meeting:

- i) Roundabout – the recent planting in the four quadrants was doing well although a couple of plants had been lost in the extreme heat. She issued photographs of the new roundabout planting and advised that additional planting on more perennials had taken place.
- ii) Areas around the roundabout – these areas had been tidied and planted to get the cemetery ready for Northumbria in Bloom judging on July 13th. She advised that a number of perennial plants had been put into the beds by the chapel and workshop including hydrangeas and heucheras. She also advised that tubs had been planted outside the chapel and hanging baskets installed on the workshop.

Councillor Symmonds thanked the Assistant to The Town Clerk for her exemplary work regarding the planting in the cemetery.

RESOLVED: To accept the updates.

CEM 18/13 Any Other Business

Councillor Mavin asked why the benches on the main avenue faced outward. The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that the benches faced across the avenue to graves on the opposite side which was standard practice.

Councillor Mavin asked if there was anywhere in Alnwick suitable for a crematorium.

Councillor Symmonds advised that Ken Gray, who had been Chair of Cemetery for a number of years, had been keen to look at this.

Councillor Allcroft thought that there might be a suitable site somewhere on Alnwick Moor.

The meeting closed at 7.37pm