

**Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held
on Thursday 21st March 2019
at the St James's Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs G Mavin, M Swinbank, A Symmonds and J Humphries (Chair) and S Allcroft.

In attendance: W Batey, Town Clerk.

CEM 18/38 Apologies

Councillor Westendarp.

CEM 18/39 Declarations of Interest

None.

CEM 18/40 Minutes of Last Meeting – to raise any matters not covered by the agenda

None.

CEM 18/41 Cemetery Activity

The Town Clerk took councillors through the Cemetery activity data as at March 20th. So far in 2018/19, there had been 39 burials (32 burials and 7 ashes burials). He reported that 15 plots had been purchased with burial (in area 37A) and 11 without a burial (1 in 38A, 5 in 19A and 5 in 37A).

Remaining plots – Old part area 19A has 10 plots available, the Natural Burial Area has 33 plots available (9 have been sold but not used); area 37A (consecrated) has 43 plots available, area 37A (un-consecrated) has 16 plots available plus ashes plots.

RESOLVED: To note the activity update.

CEM 18/42 2018/19 budget update

The Town Clerk took councillors through the budget sheet as at 16th January. Expenditure for 2018/19 is currently £50,129.49 and he noted the following lines:

Wages, PAYE – 10 months wages. On track for the end of the year.

Buildings – Further 100m² of pointing completed. Chapel carpet installed,

Machine repairs – 2 tractors & the JCB digger have been serviced. No invoices yet.

Grounds – tree survey done, some tree works undertaken.

Income for 2018/19 is currently £39,837, predicted year end is about £42,500 against a budget of £45,000.

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

CEM 18/43 Updates

a) Works

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following:

Chapel Carpet –New carpet now installed.

Damp survey – Lodge building. Works are being organised.

Soakaways & Drains – contractor has jetted all these

Paths & Drive Works – 2 quotes received, chasing a third quote, will discuss further at the next meeting.

b) Tree Works and Estimates

Tree survey – A copy of the risk based survey was circulated and a summary given by the Town Clerk. A schedule of works had been drawn up and quotes invited from 3 contractors. Two quotes had been received and the cheapest quote from Town & Country for £4,850 had been accepted. They had agreed to do the urgent works on 26th and 27th March.

The Town Clerk highlighted the recommendation about developing a strategy for the older time trees. Two suggestions were made in the report, these were crown reductions and pollarding. These works were not urgent. Councillors discussed these options and it was agreed to seek the advice of the County Council tree officer and consider again at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To accept the updates and receive a further report on a lime tree strategy at the next meeting.

CEM 18/44

Headstone replacement for Sgt John Hately and unveiling event

The Town Clerk explained that a request had been made to replace a headstone on the grave of police officer Sgt. John Hately who died in 1875. The present stone is illegible due to weather erosion. The Committee agreed that permission be granted, but asked the Clerk to ensure the stone was in keeping with that part of the cemetery. The Police Roll of Honour Trust were inviting Councillors to an unveiling ceremony in May.

RESOLVED: To agree to the replacement of the headstone.

CEM 18/45

Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 7.55pm