

**DRAFT Minutes of the Cemetery & War Memorial Committee Meeting,
held on 18th September at 7:00pm at The Spetchells Centre**

PRESENT

Cllr Duncan Couchman (Chair), Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Bryan Futers

1920/037 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Jennifer McGee

1920/038 Declarations of Interest

None received.

1920/039 DRAFT Minutes of the Cemetery Meeting, held on 10th July 2019

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Glenn Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Duncan Couchman

1920/040 Edgewell Cemetery Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Northumberland County Council

- a) It was **AGREED** to receive the updated figures in relation to activity in the cemetery.
- b) The calendar of grass-cutting and strimming was received and it was noted that rain had prevented cutting on one occasion but that there were no reported issues and the cemetery looks well.
- c) Road sweeping and weed spraying is reported as being up-to-date.

1920/041 Edgewell Old Cemetery, top left corner

Not all members had, had the opportunity to visit the cemetery to look at the work carried out and the space created, in any detail. It was noted by the Clerk that the work had been completed to the specification and the finished result was better than anticipated.

The new fence line and path into the old cemetery looked much improved but the Clerk advised that when considering the space that this has created, members should be mindful of the privacy of neighbours who had been in touch to ask what the plans were.

The Clerk advised that much of the undergrowth that had been removed may come back and this would create a suitable ground covering.

Members discussed the options of planting low-growing shrubbery, trees, wild flowers as well as other ideas, but agreed that it would be useful if the Chair visited with the Clerk and fed back to the next meeting. It was **AGREED** that the priority was a skip or other suitable container for spoil to be disposed of and that the Clerk would liaise with David Robson (NCC) on this matter.

The Clerk advised that from a budget point of view any spending would need to be in the next financial year and this should include the remainder of the outside fence adjacent to Edgewell Road west.

1920/042 Memorial Seats

It was **AGREED** that any future requests for memorials seats should be fulfilled via refurbished town seats to ensure seats were in keeping with those already in place. It was further **AGREED** that those removed should be replaced with the KC Anti-Vandal Town Seat in black. Members agreed that the Clerk should be delegated to decide which seats are refurbished and replaced.

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1920/043 Memorial Trees

Members considered two requests for memorial trees in Edgewell Cemetery. Members were mindful that the Council received a request last year about a memorial plaque or garden and the Council declined the request, suggesting a memorial seat was the only other memorial permitted where a graveside memorial was not feasible.

With this in mind, it was agreed it would be unfair to make a rash decision to change the policy on this occasion. Members were conscious of the responsibility that comes from planting trees, especially in a cemetery and where space is limited

It was AGREED to respond to the individuals to advise that the Council would not support a new initiative/policy on planting memorial trees at this time, but that in the future the Council may look at the other types of memorials that could be accommodated in the cemetery, i.e. a garden of remembrance.

1920/044 Suspension of Standing Order 68

It was AGREED to approve a motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following items.

1920/045 Cemetery Chapel

It was AGREED to receive a quotation from Scorpion Joinery, for pointing required at Edgewell Cemetery Chapel, at a cost of £350, and to proceed and order the work to be carried out.

1920/046 Memorial Stability Testing

The meeting received an update of work required and agreed to proceed as per the Clerk's recommended actions, agreeing to review again at the next meeting.

Clerk proposed date for next meeting – Wednesday 4th December – to agree priorities for the budget.