

Notes from Cemetery site meeting held on Saturday 1st May 2021 at 10.00am

Present: Cllrs J Aries, C Ellis, M Baker, J McCrory

Apologies: Cllrs K McAndrew (unwell), S Sills (on hols), L Alston (work commitment)

Front gate: At the request of a member of the public it has been agreed to repaint the front gate.

Pillar at top of drive: The laurel beside the pillar was causing it to move and it is in need of repair. Waiting on a quotation from T5 Building Company who had completed the previous copings work further down the boundary wall.

Copings: Repair work completed satisfactorily. (see above)

Memorial stability test: Neil Luxstone had completed the 5 year memorial stability test and submitted his report. Cllr Aries had collated her findings from the report and with the Clerk presented their suggestions for those memorials requiring immediate attention and those which could be monitored.

It was agreed that some leaning memorials in the older section which appeared safe should remain and be monitored. Warning signs had been placed against those memorials requiring immediate attention.

Grave deed owners would be contacted if possible. Memorial upkeep is the responsibility of the grave owner however the Cemetery Authority is responsible for ensuring the cemetery is risk assessed.

The triple grave surround of the late Doggett family had been returned to the grave space but unreconstructed. Clerk to contact the funeral directors as this was not acceptable.

Shed area: JPB Landscapes is due to commence the work on 17th May. Clerk to request that Jack retains the old shed when removed for the Cemetery Authority to sell.

Grave map to be relocated. Cllr Aries circulated a design proposal for a new brick built shed able to store the wheelbarrow and wheelie bins. All members liked the designs. Waiting on 2 quotations for the work. Planning permission may be required to build the new shed. Clerk to investigate grants.

Bird scarer: Following several discussions with the owner of an ashes plot located under trees in the ashes section the Clerk had purchased a bird scarer to hang in the tree branches. Cllr Aries has been regularly cleaning the ashes memorials on behalf of the owner. Cllr Baker suggested that the contractor remove the branch where the birds roost and hopefully along with the bird scarer this may improve the situation.

Ivy on trees: Cllr Baker advised members on controlling the ivy on the cemetery trees. She suggested cutting every other stem root growing on the trunks with physically pulling the ivy off. Members agreed to meet in the autumn to do this work.

Trees: It was agreed that there were sufficient trees along the boundary fence of the newest section thus allowing any memorial trees from loved ones to be planted in the empty sections as and when.

All trees were being monitored by members on the meeting risk assessment report. The trees were also given a picus test every 3 years. Note last picus test is dated 22nd May 2018.

Bulb planting: It was agreed to plant further bulbs in the autumn. The Authority had been donated £100 specifically for bulb planting.

Boundary fence: Members checked the new boundary fence with Apple Mews and all appeared in good order.

Cortege turning area: Cllr Aries showed members the agreed layout to enable the funeral cortege to drive through to the top of the cemetery and turn without the need to reverse. The no entry sign would remain on the pillar as entry was only for the cortege and not all visitors. Cllr Aries explained the implications for horse drawn carriages and the space needed for the horses to circle at the top to avoid the need to reverse. Space needed for this was quite large and members would need to discuss as grave space was limited.