

Notes from Cemetery Site meeting – Saturday 17th June 2023

Present: J Aries, M Baker, E Ellerbeck, S Manning, K McAndrew, J McCrory, J Wright

Matters discussed:

- 1) Front entrance and gate – entrance area tidy. Gate had been washed down by Scouts.**
- 2) Noticeboard/signage - replacement ‘ please close gate’ sign to be ordered as existing sign unreadable. One notice to be updated following the committee meeting on Monday.**
- 3) Brickwork boundary walls – some pointing completed on main drive walls. To agree further pointing for boundary walls to new section at the committee meeting on Monday.**
- 4) Pathways – main drive had been weed sprayed with NewWay and raked as agreed with contractor. Some discussion regarding path leading down to rear gate. Whether to allow to grass over. Agreed for contractors to edge and tidy and keep shingled.
Agreed to leave lefthand path leading down to oldest section to grass over as and when as not used by many visitors.
It was agreed not to pea shingle the main drives and leave as they are for the time being. The shingle tends to wash down the main drive and creates problems for turning vehicles.
Paths in newest section to be cleared of weeds.**
- 5) Benches – had been cleaned by the Scouts this spring. However some minor timber deterioration on the memorial bench to Les Cook along with several bird droppings needing to be wiped off.**
- 6) Rear gate – all okay and area cut back of weeds. Signage good.**
- 7) Boundary fences and hedges – boundary to Apple Tree Mews to be left as is. Ivy to be left for habitat. New hedging along boundary of Geoff Davis’ workshop has taken well. First section along the boundary line to be cleared and tidied.
Laurel hedge along St Edmunds Lane boundary to be reduced early 2024 prior to bird nesting season.
Adam Norton to be asked to clear along teasel field fence line. Stake uprights needed to secure the fencing.**
- 8) Parking bay – grids to be laid at turning corner.**
- 9) Grass cuttings – Cllr Aries has been raking the cuttings in the extended area of the cemetery to avoid increasing contractor costs. She has also been cleaning the cuttings from the memorials. It was agreed that the committee should consider purchasing its own cuttings collector mower for use by the contractor. Additional costs to be investigated for the contractor to clear cuttings from the memorials on each grass cut occasion.**
- 10) Trees – members considered options for the remaining trunks of the Sequioa and Cedar at the top of the main drive. Agreed Cedar trunk to remain. Sequioa trunk options – fully remove, make a feature, or cut down and leave base as a seat. Agreed a clematis or similar to be allowed to grow up the trunk.
Lime trees – Cllr Baker cut back the suckers on site. Last pollarded in 2016 and 2019. Cost £850 in 2019. Clerk to discuss with tree surgeon if pollarding required early 2024.**

11) Bushes – it was agreed to arrange to remove the bush at the top of the main drive and the bush along the righthand path.

12) Wildflower meadow – looking splendid. One cut to be done in the autumn and cuttings to be cleared by the contractor. Members to follow up with flower seeding after the autumn cut.

13) Map casing – fixing bolts to be added to enable the casing to be opened and map to be regularly updated.

14) Old soil compost area – Cllr Aries has cut back the brambles to below the wall height. Adam Norton to be asked costs for clearing the soil and tidying the area.

15) Memorial stability testing – being done prior to each committee meeting.

16) Graves to be levelled – Thornton, Sargeant, Grindell, Dolling and Dawson. Deaves to be infilled.