

SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

6 March 2012

PRESENT: Chairman: M J R Mallows Snr Assistant Clerk: Mrs G A Pack

Councillors

Miss S E Clarke

W A Fell

Mrs S A Hatton

E C Murray

W N Reid

R M Richmond

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K J L Cooper and Mrs J G A Smith

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

None declared

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2011 were read, confirmed and signed.
It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor W N Reid and **SECONDED** by Councillor R M Richmond to **ACCEPT** these minutes

VOTE: **7 FOR** : (UNANIMOUS)

4 MATTERS ARISING – New information only

Main Cemetery Gates

It was reported that the main Cemetery gates had been removed and repaired, but were still being left open although not as frequent.

Mortuary Shed

It was reported that the interlocking blocks had been received but not yet fixed in place.

5 CEMETERY TREES

The Committee was advised that the two Beech trees planted in the Cemetery have not been successful due to the dry weather conditions. Councillor M J R Mallows agreed to ask Wandlebury for larger specimens to replace the dead trees and Councillor Miss S E Clarke also agreed to apply to SCDC Parish Planting Plan for replacement trees.

6 CEMETERY HEDGE

The Plum hedge between the Cemetery and Sawston Village College is causing some concern as it needs thinning which could prove difficult and dangerous for Health & Safety reasons. An alternative was suggested which would be to remove the hedge completely and replace with a fence, although this would be expensive at an approximate cost of £4,000 for the fencing and an extra cost of approximately £1,500 to cut the roots which would need to be done so as not to disturb the headstones nearest to the hedge.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor W N Reid and **SECONDED** by Councillor R M Richmond to defer a decision, until the Parish Council has sought advice from a reputable Tree Surgeon. It was suggested that the Clerk invites the Tree Surgeon along to the next Cemetery Meeting. In the meantime it was also suggested that Mrs R Richardson, Trees Officer for SCDC is contacted to ask for her opinion as well.

VOTE: 7 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)

7 DIGGING OF GRAVES

On a recent visit to Huckeridge View Cemetery Councillor E C Murray was shocked to find a headstone covered in spoil from a recent re-opening of a grave for a second interment.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor R M Richmond and **SECONDED** by Councillor Miss S E Clarke that the Clerk writes to the Funeral Directors to advise that this is not acceptable and their respective grave digger must be made aware of the situation.

VOTE: 7 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)

8 HAND MOWERS

Mr A R Poole requested two new hand mowers to enable work to be carried out efficiently in the Cemetery. Two quotations had been received for 19" and 21" mowers with Aluminium Decks but it was **AGREED** that more prices were needed together with any discounts available to part exchange existing machines. This to be made an Agenda item for the next Full Parish Council in March.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING CONCERNING CEMETERY ONLY

None

The meeting closed at 8.10pm