



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 07 MARCH 2017

At Link Road Parish Council Offices - Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Assistant Parish Clerk Anne Rudge

Councillors

David Bard

Neil Reid

Tony Fell

Roger Richmond (Vice Chairman)

Mike Mallows (Chairman)

Councillor Rajni Padia – as an observer
Ms J Merrick
Ms J Branch
Mr W Smith

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Kieran Cooper – Work commitments
Councillor Kevin Cuffley – Work commitments

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

None

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on **01 November 2016** were read, confirmed and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Neil Reid and **seconded** by Councillor Roger Richmond to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

4 MATTERS ARISING – New information only

None

5 REQUEST FOR BENCH AT CEMETERY (IRIS PLUMB D26)

Representatives of the family who submitted the initial request were present and the Chairman asked if they wanted to say anything. They asked the Committee for more information about why their application for a bench had been declined. They informed the meeting that of the six benches at the Cemetery only 3 were properly maintained. The Chairman informed them that he appreciated their point of view and explained that the Committee considered every request very carefully before making a decision. When the Committee approved the last bench to be sited on the Northern side of the Cemetery they were under the impression that additional plaques would be allowed on the bench however permission was subsequently rescinded by the owner.

The Chairman informed the relatives that if the situation changed and the Committee agreed to additional benches at the Cemetery they would be first on the list.

The relatives asked for a letter confirming they are first on the waiting list for a bench at the Cemetery if space becomes available. The Chairman agreed.

6 REVIEW OF MEMORIAL SIZES (3" or 4")

The Assistant Clerk explained that a Funeral Director has asked for clarification about the depth of burial headstones as there are headstones that are 4" deep where our charge sheet specifies 3" depth.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to change the specification to 4" depth.

VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

7 REQUEST FOR TREE AT CEMETERY

The committee discussed this and it was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Roger Richmond to allow the resident to have the tree recommended by the Tree Officer planted at the Cemetery but to delay the planting until later in the year when conditions are more conducive to it flourishing. A letter will be written to the individual to this effect.

ACTION: The Clerk

VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

8 PILLAR NEAR KISSING GATE

The Chairman explained the damage to the pillar to the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes to fix the damage to take to the April Full Parish meeting.

9 TAP NEAR KISSING GATE

The Committee discussed the repair required and It was **proposed** by Councillor Tony Fell and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to allow the Clerk to authorise the repair under Chairman's action.

VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

10 DAMAGE FENCING ON NORTH SIDE OF CEMETERY

The Chairman gave the Committee details of the damage to the fence. Councillor David Bard asked if the Clerk could check whether the repairs would be covered by insurance and also what the excess is.

ACTION: The Clerk

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk should meet at the site to assess the damage and agree next steps.

11 ADDITIONAL ASHES PLOTS BY CEMETERY SKIP

The Head Groundsman has suggested an additional row for ashes interments could be put in the space made available since the old hedge has been removed. Councillors felt the new hedge would grow to fill the space and being close to the skip was not an appropriate siting.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Roger Richmond and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid not to allow an additional row for ashes interments next to the Cemetery skip.

VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

12 STATE OF CEMETERY AND HUCKERIDGE VIEW

The Chairman reported that the Yew hedge is coming along very well and the new hedges between the Northern side of the cemetery and the skip area are established. The privet hedge has also been planted.

13 STATE OF CEMETERY CHAPEL

No issues.

14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

15 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – CONCERNING CEMETERY ONLY

Councillor Neil Reid said that he had reported the damaged fence near the sub-station. The Chairman informed him that it had been fixed by the Head Groundsman.

Councillor David Bard asked if the Clerk could check whether quotations had been received for repairs to the cemetery wall.

ACTION: The Clerk

Meeting closed 8.15 pm