



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 03 NOVEMBER 2020 Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Parish Clerk Jo Keeler

Councillors

Mike Mallows (Chairman)

Stephen Drew

Jayne Merrick

Tony Fell

Kieran Cooper

Neil Reid

Kevin Cuffley

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor David Bard

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

3 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2020 were read, confirmed and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

4 **MATTERS ARISING – New information only**

None

5 **TO DISCUSS STONES AROUND MEMORIAL HEADSTONE**

Councillor Michael Mallows explained a resident has written to the parish council regarding a headstone which they claim could have been caused by a lawnmower running over it. The grounds keepers have said they have not damaged the stone and they would have reported it to the Clerk if they had.

They also report that they put stones around the headstone to protect the base stones are not permitted as per the cemetery rules.

This was discussed at length.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to write to the guardians and explain that the evidence they have provided and the conversation with the groundskeepers doesn't support the claim being made.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to write to the guardians asking them to remove the stones as they are not permitted in this part of the cemetery.

VOTE: 6 FOR : 1 ABS

6 TO DISCUSS OUTDOOR CHILDRENS MUDDY CHURCH SERVICE AT ST MARYS CHURCH

St Marys Church asked the parish council when they will finish the grass cutting at St Marys closed churchyard as they are using it for a children's muddy church service and wanted to ask if they could leave some 'pods' up which the parish council would have to cut around. The group has now decided they will remove the pods after each session so nothing to be agreed.

7 TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The committee has been asked if a memorial headstone could mention a relative that is not actually interred in the grave. The wording makes it clear that the ashes have been scattered elsewhere.

It was **proposed** to by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** to allow the proposed inscription.

VOTE: 6 FOR : 1 ABS

8 TO AGREE RISK ASSESSMENTS

The committee had copies of the risk assessments for St Marys closed church yard and the cemetery on Cambridge Road. Councillor Kieran Cooper asked that the wording is changed from grounds men to grounds keepers.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** to accept both risk assessments.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

9 TO DISCUSS THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Councillor Michael Mallows explained the memorial garden is neat and tidy and the grounds keepers have removed some dead bushes and laid some bark to neaten it up.

10 TO DISCUSS THE CEMETERY EXTENSION

Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained that the County Council has put the area around the cemetery in for the call for sites for mixed use. As it stands the area is worth around £11k per acre but will increase if it has planning permission. He did explain that with regards to S106, they would have to provide provisions for burial which Councillor David Bard is looking into. This will be on the next Cemetery agenda for an update.

11 TO AGREE AND ADD TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS NO USE OF CHEMICALS ON THE CEMETERY GROUND

Councillor Michael Mallows explained that a resident has used a weedkiller around a grave. This was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** add to the cemetery rules that only environmentally friendly cleaners to be used on headstones and stones and no chemical to be used to control the plants/weeds.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

12 CONDITION OF CEMETERY AND HUCKERIDGE VIEW

It was agreed that this is currently looking neat and tidy but Councillor Michael Mallows wanted to report a couple of things.

- There are two benches that need attention/repairing. The clerk asked that he lets the assistant clerk know which benches they are so she can write to the owners.

- There is an issue with the two skips which are put too close together and the litter picker has trouble to put rubbish in them. The assistant clerk to speak to skip company to rectify.
- There is a base stone in the hedge which needs to be removed.

He also explained that the privet hedge around the cemetery needs more weeding and the dog roses need to be pulled out. The litter picker did have some extra time last year to help with this but it was only agreed for a certain amount of time. Councillor Mallows asked for this to be an agenda item to agree for him to have additional time to do this work.

13 **CONDITION OF CEMETERY CHAPEL**

Nothing to report.

14 **BUDGET SETTING 2021/2022**

The committee went through the budget.

It was ***proposed*** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and ***seconded*** by Councillor Neil Reid to ***RECOMMEND TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE*** a cemetery budget for 2021/2022 of £1,000.00.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

15 **CORRESPONDENCE – returfing of the graves**

The clerk explained the parish council received correspondence about the grounds keeper's recently returfing some graves and that they did not know this was happening. It is in our rules that they are returfed after six months but we have normally gone ahead and returfed and not let families know. This was discussed and agreed that in future the clerks write to families to let them know when this is happening.

16 **COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Meeting closed at 8.29pm