



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT SPICERS PAVILION ON 01 MARCH 2022
Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Assistant Parish Clerk Clare Speed

Councillors

Mike Mallows (Chairman)

Paul Smith

Jayne Merrick

David Bard

Kevin Cuffley

Neil Reid

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kieran Cooper - Work Commitments
Tony Fell - Personal

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

3 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 02 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 02 November 2021 were read, confirmed and signed. It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 6 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

4 MATTERS ARISING – New information only

None

5 TO DISCUSS MEMORIAL TREE IN MEMORIAL GARDEN

Councillor Mike Mallows explained we have discussed installing a memorial tree for the cemetery at previous meetings and it was agreed at the November Cemetery meeting to purchase the core ten steel tree for the memorial garden in the south side of the cemetery. The Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain three quotes for this for the full parish meeting.

Councillor Jayne Merrick obtained three quotes:

- 1.8 metres stainless steel tree £1,415 (Leaves £50 each, £10,000 for 200)
- 1.2 metres core ten steel £13,465 (includes 170 leaves)
- 2.1 meters stainless steel tree £8960 (includes 250 leaves)

After a long discussion it was agreed the core ten steel will last longer in the cemetery as the stainless steel will rust, the 2.2 metre tree would be too high so it was agreed to go for the 1.2 but to try to rise the height slightly. Councillor Mike Mallows suggested it being in a pot filled with concrete and Councillor David Bard suggested placing a plaque on the front.

Councillor Mike Mallows suggested putting the memorial tree in the Huckeridge View side of the cemetery as more people will see the tree, it was suggested to invite the whole

parish council for a meeting at the cemetery to discuss location and bring back to April full parish.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** to purchase the 1.2 meter memorial tree for £13,465.00.

It was suggested for the Assistant Clerk to contact the company to ask if the tree can be raised slightly to make the tree higher in a pot design.

The cemetery committee suggested the position to be discussed at a full parish meeting and to have a meeting beforehand at the cemetery with the whole council to discuss location.

VOTE: 6 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

6 TO DISCUSS PRIVET HEDGE

Councillor Mike Mallows explained the privet hedge needs removing and replacing with a bush as it is in a poor state, now is not the time to do this as the birds are starting to nest. Councillor David Bard suggested replacing with a Beech hedge. It was suggested to bring this back to June agenda and get advice from the Grounds Keeper of what to replace the privet hedge with later this year.

7 TO DISCUSS CEMETERY EXTENSION

Councillor Mike Mallows asked Councillor Kevin Cuffley and Councillor David Bard where we were with the cemetery extension. In the previous minutes it was suggested to ask Councillor Brian Milnes to approach the appropriate person at County Council to ask for a cost at purchasing 1 hectare of land.

The Assistant Clerk will chase this up and Councillor Mike Mallows will make contact to the County Council.

8 CONDITION OF CEMETERY AND HUCKERIDGE VIEW

Councillor Mike Mallows explained he had a walk round the cemetery today and was disappointed at the poor state of the cemetery. He explained that there are three headstones that are damaged and coming away from the original concrete plinth. This could have only happened from heavy machinery and suggested this damage was made from the contractors.

When the contractors had been cutting the grass, they were throwing the bales into the hedges not taking it away with them leaving the hedges very untidy.

It was suggested the Assistant Clerk contacts the contractors and shows photos of the damage and ask them to remove the bales.

Councillor Mike Mallows explained there is a Holly Tree which is looking in a bad condition and needs re staking, Councillor Jayne Merrick explained that the Grounds Keeper is aware and is going to re stake all the newer trees in the cemetery.

Councillor Mike Mallows explained a few graves have dipped and need to be kept an eye on as will continue to sink, soon they will need to be re levelled.

Councillor Mike Mallows explained that three benches at the back need some maintenance and the Assistant Clerk to contact the owners and asked them to carry out the necessary work.

Councillor Mike Mallows suggested the skip be moved round the other way to make it easier for the litter picker, next time we have a deliver for a skip at the cemetery it was suggested for the Grounds Keeper to be present to assist with where the skip should go.

Councillor Mike Mallows explained the cricket site screens fell over in the wind into the cemetery, it was suggested to contact cricket and to have these moved and anchored down so they are secure.

Councillor Jayne Merrick suggested meeting Councillor Mike Mallows and walking around the cemetery and making a list of any jobs, this list can be past onto the Clerks.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

None

10 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained the iron gates don't shut at the front of the cemetery; it was suggested the Assistant Clerk investigates having them repaired.

Councillor David Bard suggested we have someone check the wall as it was 8/10 years ago it was last checked for elements of danger; the tree is pushing the wall out causing it to bow.

Councillor Jayne Merrick has noticed a headstone which has been vandalised, the Assistant Clerk will investigate this.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm