

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS, CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2006 IN THE PARISH CENTRE, COMMENCING 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor J Blackburn and Councillors S Butler and J Roper

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Benson (ill) and I Skidmore (other commitments) R Findlay (Clerk) (Holiday) and Chris Wright (Allotment Association.)

IN ATTENDANCE: A Lane (Administrator)

2006/58 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2006:
The minutes of the meeting, having been reviewed were duly signed as an accurate account.

2006/59 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:
Progress on Planting at ‘pipe’ at the Allotments
Clerk to advise on progress at the next meeting.

Cleaning of War Memorial

Clerk to get some quotations for consideration and to also look into the possibility of applying for a grant. War Memorial grants are issued for urgent repairs and cleaning if the memorial has been damaged by chemical effects.

The Clerk to apply for a grant for the reinstatement of lettering. The Grant will be approved if felt that the work coincides with the grant regulations and if the work will cost more than £500.

It was brought to the attention of the committee that there is an initial wrong on one of the names on the memorial. This matter has been put forward to the Committee a few years ago and was decided if any major refurbishments were to go ahead that this matter would be taken into consideration for correction.

Allotment Banding Exercise

The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Chris Wright from the Allotment Association and will report back at the next meeting.

Pet Cemetery and Green Burials

Green Burials first ground in 1993 and by 2003 there were 182. The nearest Green Burials sight is in Letchworth.

One issue raised was with the scattering of ashes with no memorial how would these be recorded?

The idea of a Pet Cemetery will need to be discussed at length. The proposal will need to go to Full Council.

It was noted that there should be some market research into this to assess the demand locally.

Cllr Butler to email the Clerk with all the information she has discovered and to supply a report for the Committee to discuss and debate.

Clerk to add this to the Agenda of the next meeting.

2006/60

ALLOTMENT ITEMS RAISED BY THE ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMITTEE:

Allotment Judging

It was reported that plot 10A received the Judge's Special Award of the Year. The Judges were very impressed with this plot and especially impressed with the way the plot holder worked around the pipe that runs through the plot.

The winning plot of the Allotment Judging went to plot 6B as the judges were overly impressed with the plot and felt it was very good and productive.

The report was looked at by the Allotments, Cemetery and Churchyard Committee and was approved.

The report to be submitted to full Council.

2006/61

CEMETERY ITEMS:

There was a meeting held at the Cemetery with the WHBC Tree Officer, it was in agreement that some more planting take place and the Tree Officer advised on long life native trees such as Oaks and Hornbeams.

It was noted that one tree will be replaced as it is dead and matched with the same tree on the opposite side.

It was reported that in order for the planting to go ahead there would be the need to remove a lot of poor rubble like soil. The Councillors see no problem with this and feel the planting should go ahead.

The Clerk to find a suitable contractor to carry out the works and to acquire some quotes for review from The Council.

2006/62

CHURCHYARD ITEMS:

Clerk to advice on what progress has been made with the work on the clearance of the Churchyard wall. It was noted that the work to be carried out during August 2006.

2006/63

BUDGET ITEMS 2007/2008

It has been reported that a decision needs to be made about the waiting room at the Cemetery. Clerk to chase up quotes on the removal of the structure.

The gates at the Cemetery need some attention. A possible rub down of the iron work and a new coat of paint.

Another budget item for consideration could be an additional organic waste area at the back of the Cemetery, plus an additional waste area for non organic waste.

It has been noted that the fence that runs down the right hand side of the Allotments passed the White Horse Public House needs replacing.

It has been reported that after the clearance of the wall at the Churchyard, there may be work that needs to be carried out behind where the wall is at present.

The benches at the War Memorial are in need of some attention along with the bench in the High Street in front of the notice board.

A possibility of some more land for Allotments to be looked into by the Clerk, however, there is work to be done on this first before any land is purchased or considered for purchase

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed.....Chairman
(Allotments, Cemetery and Churchyard Committee)

Date:.....2006