

CREWKERNE AND WEST CREWKERNE
JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Burial Committee held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crewkerne.

PRESENT:

Cllrs. J. Borland (Chair), S. Ashton, M. Best C. Broom, N. Draycott, A. Samuel and A. Stuart.

Also in attendance: K. Sheehan (Clerk), P. Hewitt (Finance Officer) and one member of the public.

Cllr. Borland announced the sad passing of Joint Burial Committee member Frank Freeman. A minute's silence was held in his memory.

OPEN FORUM:

A member of the public wanted to clarify a point they had previously raised about using road sweepings on cemetery paths. The Clerk was asked to contact Somerset Council to find out if these were available. In response to a query about possible subsidence in the old section of the cemetery, the Clerk confirmed that the Council's Operations Manager was monitoring the situation.

51 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

23/24

None.

52 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2023

23/24

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 were APPROVED.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23/24 in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

54 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

23/24

The Clerk reported that following a period of very wet weather, a number of graves in the new section had subsided. Signs had been erected and all affected grave owners had been notified. Arrangements were being made for the Grounds Team to level the plots but grave owners would need to instruct a mason directly for any works to headstones.

55 FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

23/24 a. To receive the financial update report

The financial update report was noted. The Chair noted that receipts were down.

b. To consider end of year allocated reserves and the future management of reserves

A report on end of year allocated reserves levels was noted. The Clerk explained that at the end of the current financial year, West Crewkerne's percentage of the allocated reserves would be returned to West Crewkerne Parish Council (WCPC) to hold. Going forward, projects involving

the spend of allocated reserves would be either invoiced to WCPC, or the end of year contribution calculation adjusted accordingly. This would improve clarity over reserves.

56 **WAR GRAVES**

23/24 To consider a proposal for a location guide

Following previous discussions about war graves, it was AGREED to approach Crewkerne Shed about the possibility of creating a wooden version of the existing map using pyrography. This would be displayed on the left-hand side of the arch.

57 **SPITFIRE MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

23/24 To receive a progress report on arrangements for the spitfire memorial plaque

The Finance Officer explained that it had proven difficult to get an engraved picture of a spitfire, with the extra detail pushing the cost of a brass plaque up to £312. Councillors were shown a mock-up of a composite panel which included a photo and illustration, which would cost approximately £125. It was suggested that Crewkerne Shed be approached to make a stand. A slight change of wording was agreed to reflect the location of the crash site in relation to the proposed location of the sign. It was AGREED to proceed with the composite sign.

58 **PATHS**

23/24 To consider quotations for paths in the new section

It was AGREED to award the paths contract to D. W. Hyett & Sons, at a cost of £10,500 (subject to the Operations Managers' verification that the path width was sufficient for the undertakers' requirements). It was clarified that the excess soil would not be removed from site.

59 **INSPECTIONS**

23/24 a. To receive feedback from recent cemetery inspections

Councillor Borland reported that she had undertaken a detailed inspection in January with the contractor and Town Council staff and identified some work to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new maintenance contract in March.

Cllr Broom reported that the two yew trees on either side of the cemetery driveway were loose and needed wiring. The Operations Manager would be asked to make arrangements to have this carried out to prevent branches collapsing.

b. To make arrangements for cemetery inspections until April 2024

Councillors Samuel, Broom and Best agreed to conduct interim inspections ahead of the next meeting of the Joint Burial Committee in April.

60 **TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS, MEMORIALS AND TRANSFERS RECEIVED**

23/24

The applications, memorials and transfers received were APPROVED.

61 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

23/24

Cllr. Ashton noted that some concerns had been raised about a disturbed badger sett at the cemetery, but that this had been reported directly to Somerset Badger Group.

62 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

23/24

Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 19.11.

Signed.....

Dated.....

JBC13022024