

CREWKERNE AND WEST CREWKERNE
JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Burial Committee held on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

PRESENT:

Cllrs. M. Best (Chair), J. Borland, C. Broom, N. Draycott, J. Holt (from item 036/2425 onwards), A. Samuel and A. Stuart.

Also in attendance: K. Sheehan (Town Clerk), P. Hewitt (Finance Officer).

031 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

24/25

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Rawe (personal).

032 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

24/25 in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

033 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2024

24/25

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2024 were APPROVED.

034 OPEN FORUM

24/25

No members of the public were in attendance.

035 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

24/25

The Clerk reported that the noticeboard at the cemetery had been damaged during a recent storm and would be repaired by the Shed. A cedar had lost limbs under the weight of the recent snow, these had now been cleared by contractors. Art from the chapel had been removed due to damp and would be restored and returned. Recent fly treatment had been successful and a section of path in the old section was being re-gravelled in trial sections over the winter before a firm decision was made about the remainder of these paths. The Clerk also reported that a member of the public had volunteered his services in tracking down the wreckage and hoped to be able to provide photos of it for the commemorative event in 2025.

036 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24/25

a. To receive the financial update report

The financial update report was noted. The Town Clerk was asked to research data around direct cremations.

b. To consider the draft income/expenditure estimate for 2025/26

Cllr. Holt arrived at 18.53.

The Town Clerk answered a number of questions around the toilet refurbishment at the Lodge. Councillors requested that the toilet be added to cleaning and sanitary waste contracts. The appropriate level of unallocated reserves was discussed, with councillors noting that the paths in

the old section of the cemetery were likely to be relatively high cost and may use some of these reserves. It was noted that the cost of the grounds maintenance contract would be likely to increase now that the new sections had been opened. The income/expenditure estimate for 25/26 was AGREED for recommendation to Crewkerne Town Council for inclusion in the budget.

037 SPITFIRE MEMORIAL PLAQUE

24/25 To receive an update and determine arrangements for unveiling

The Town Clerk reported that guest list had been agreed, and pending approval of the invitation, the 'save the date' cards would be emailed out shortly. In January the final timetable for the day would be determined and full invitations sent out. All arrangements for catering etc were delegated to the Town Clerk.

038 INSPECTIONS

24/25 To make arrangements for cemetery inspections until the next meeting

Cllrs. Holt and Samuel reported that they had conducted an inspection with Cllr. Rawe, noting that some glasses had been left on a grave, a badger sett had appeared next to a path in the old section and some subsidence had occurred, likely due to recent wet weather. The Town Clerk reported that memorial testing was being carried out over the winter and a report would be made available to the Committee when complete. Councillors noted the suggestion of having a bench policy and formalise the application process for benches, and the Town Clerk thought that mapping existing benches on the Council's mapping software would be a good starting point. Councillors agreed that they would assist in the first instance by counting existing benches and suggesting possible locations for new ones. Cllr. Broom expressed concern over the size of the dwarf magnolia.

039 TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS, MEMORIALS AND TRANSFERS RECEIVED

24/25

The applications, memorials and transfers received were APPROVED. Cllr. Best noted that brass plaques had in the past been targeted by thieves.

040 MATTERS OF REPORT

24/25

In response to a query from Cllr. Best about publicity for the chapel, the Town Clerk reported that the Finance Officer was waiting for good weather in order to be able to take good photos.

041 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24/25

Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 19.14.

Signed.....

Dated.....

JBC03December2024