

**CREWKERNE AND WEST CREWKERNE**  
**JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Burial Committee held on Tuesday 2 December 2025 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also in attendance: G. Hughes (Town Clerk)

**033** **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

25/26

Cllrs. C. Rawe (personal) and A. Stuart (work). J. Holt was absent.

**034** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

25/26 in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made.

**035** **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2025**

25/26

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2025 were APPROVED.

**036** **OPEN FORUM**

25/26

No members of the public were in attendance.

**037** **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

25/26

The Clerk reported that the memorial plaque in the turning circle has been replaced, and the magnolia previously in that location has been removed and substituted with a Cercis siliquastrum 'Bodnant', a variety of Judas tree with purple-pink flowers. The magnolia has been relocated nearer the lodge, away from the deer, until it grows larger. Additionally, the memorial post box has been installed, and the noticeboard has been updated to include new photographs and reflect the change of Clerk. The Grounds Team have completed a stone border around the ashes dispersal area and, as usual, have continued topping up sunken graves as required.

The chair made a proposal to move agenda item 038/2526 a and b to later in the meeting. This was AGREED.

**039** **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

25/26 To consider the tenders received

Councillors made the following comments:

- They noted that the 75% compliance for contractors B and D was due to £5 million public liability insurance, rather than the specified £10 million.
- Contractor B had quoted for a worst-case scenario with a maximum price but had not provided a best-case scenario.
- Even when adjusted to 50 cuts to allow direct comparison with the other quotes, Contractor B remained more expensive per cut.

Councillors also noted that the cemetery now has more reliable grounds staff, who will be able to oversee the works effectively. It was AGREED to award Contractor D the maintenance contract for 2026-28.

**038 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

25/26 b. To review the fees for 2026/27

Councillors commented that most councils offer single plots, whereas the Council currently offers only double plots. They noted that double plots provide more flexibility, as people may change their minds. It was also noted that the fees had not increased for seven years.

It was AGREED to increase an adult grave plot to £700, interment of a body to £300 and interment of ashes to £200. All other fees would remain the same.

a. To approve the budget for 2026/27

It was noted that due to staff leave, the figures aren't as up to date as the committee would like. It was AGREED to defer this item to a future meeting.

**040 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

25/26 To adopt the revised document

It was AGREED to adopt the revised document.

**041 DOGS**

25/26 To consider whether to implement restrictions on dogs

Councillors AGREED to add signs to the cemetery indicating that dogs must be kept on leads. It was noted that there was no need to provide dog waste bins, as these might encourage more dog walkers.

**042 INSPECTIONS**

25/26 a. to receive feedback from recent inspections

The following matters were noted during recent inspections:

- There is a lot of winter debris, but the Grounds Team were praised for keeping on top of it.
- Councillors noted that positive feedback had been received regarding the appearance of the cemetery.
- The committee felt that the bin store looked improved and that the appearance of the chapel was good.
- The site of the hornets' nest should be monitored in case it reappears next year.

b. to make arrangements for cemetery inspections until February 2026

All councillors would visit the cemetery before the next meeting and report back.

**043 MATTERS OF REPORT**

25/26

There were no matters of report.

**044 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

25/26

Tuesday 3 February 2025 at 18.45 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

The meeting closed at 19.19.

**Signed.....**

**Dated.....**

JBC2December2025