

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 2022 AT 7.00PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present:

Councillors A Cooper (Chairman), Mrs T Bhasin, S Buck, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, S Hayes.

Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

Due to the high lightening risk, this meeting was moved from the Cemetery to the Council Chamber.

38/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Collier and Mrs Hyde.

39/22 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no disclosures of interest or requests for dispensation. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

40/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

41/22 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

42/22 FLAGPOLE

Members considered installing a flagpole at the Cemetery, suggested location in the area of the War Memorial. This could be used to regularly fly the union flag, or Stotfold Town Council flag (additional flags to be purchased for this pole), and on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday or Armed Forces Day, to fly those flags as appropriate.

RESOLVED that a flagpole is purchased and installed by the Flagpole Company.

43/22 CEMETERY MAINTENANCE – INCREASING BIODIVERSITY

Members considered a proposals report on landscaping/grass cutting maintenance within the cemetery, with a view to increasing biodiversity.

The Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract requires the grass areas within the cemetery to be cut 16 times per year, however it is proposed that existing areas of primroses and bluebells, currently in the Old Section of the cemetery, are left to grow and flower, and are then cut after they have died off. The contractor is currently leaving these flowers to grow and is cutting around them.

RESOLVED that the current contract and future contract starting next financial year is to include allowing existing identified areas of primroses and bluebells in the Old Section to grow and flower and are then cut after they have died off.

Members considered a proposal to create a 'wildflower' area to the right of the Walled Garden of Rest, with mown paths leading to memorial benches. This would be a meadow/wildflower mix, planted in a determined area, with cut grass around the edges to stop spread. The benches could either be individual family memorial benches or provided by the council with options for families to purchase a memorial plaque for a set period of time – they would be affixed to the top back bar of the bench, allowing for up to 5 memorial plaques. This would meet our aim to provide more memorial options, being a cheaper option for families only purchasing a plaque and not the full bench package.

The idea of the wildflower area is to increase biodiversity in what is a formal setting, with little to attract pollinators. It would also provide a quiet place for contemplation. This area is unlikely to be used for any other purpose, as it is too small for an extension to the Garden of Rest, and the electricity cable supplying the telecoms mast runs under this section, preventing any permanent overground construction.

RESOLVED that a wildflower area is created to the right of the Walled Garden of Rest, with mown paths leading to two memorial benches, to be purchased by the council, allowing memorial plaques to be purchased and affixed. Wildflower area is to be marked as such.

44/22 LANDSCAPE & GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Members considered the maintenance specification (relevant to this committee) for the Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract (period 2023 to 2026).

RESOLVED that the draft specification for the Landscape & Grass Cutting Contract for 2023 to 2026, relevant to this committee, is approved, with the addition of maintenance as per the new wildflower area adjacent to the Walled Garden of Rest and the areas to be left to grow with wildflowers in 'Old Section'.

45/22 INSPECTION OF CEMETERY

RESOLVED that the following works are carried out:

Others

- The telecoms mast is shedding more of its 'branches', which are being found around the cemetery

Noted that the burning area has been emptied and the general condition of the cemetery is looking good.

46/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.17pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: