

WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Email: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

Address: Wigton Cemetery, Station Hill, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9BN

Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on 24th November 2021 in The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery

Present: P Williams, H Robbins, G Girvan, W Marrs, M Huntington, J Mattinson, M Clark,
T Huntington, J Hamblin

1. Apologies – No apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held on 29th September 2021. One correction was made, the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
3. No declarations of interest, etc.
4. Exclusion of press and public – none present.
5. No press or public present. No contact with the public.
6. **Finance Matters**

Alison Dodd was due to speak on finance at meeting, however was not present because of illness. PW suggests we make a list of concerns about invoicing and the clerk writes to Alison with these. Questions to be put forward to Alison Dodd are as follows: Where have we gone over budget? Can all invoices go to the clerk so the committee can see a breakdown of what it is for and clerk will tell Alison when payment is approved? When do invoices have to be in to Wigton Town Council and when does the clerk need to put them in? How many committee members are required to approve an invoice?

TH wants standing order set up to pay Ian Rumney in twelve equal instalments over the year, with any extra work being invoiced separately.

MC says that Ian Rumney agrees with this way of being paid.

MC expressed concern that meetings related to the WBJC, eg, with auditors or CALC should be attended by someone from the committee
7. **Allerdale Borough Council**

PW says the agreement is going well.

MC asked what the numbers had been for the cemetery.

GG stated there had been 3 purchases (full); 3 cremations; 6 transfers; 15 cremated remains; 6 memorial plaques; 7 new headstones; 15 additional inscriptions and 8 interments.

PW asked clerk to contact Ruth Carr at Allerdale to send the day book once every quarter.

PW also asked clerk to ask Ruth about quotations to have gravestones sunk. We currently have three in need of repair and two obelisks that need to be taken down.
8. **Approval of invoices and budget**

All current invoices were discussed and approved by all committee members.

HR discussed changes in the budget for 2022/23 including a reserve fund for paths and access, headstone repairs and the appointment of the clerk.

All committee members approved the budget.
9. **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

MC explained that there will be a 5% rise in costs next year. Currently paying for 16 cuts and 8 strims throughout the year. There will also be the addition of strimming the memorial garden every time the cemetery is being cut, and once a month strimming behind the house.

PW removal of Christmas wreaths will be removed and disposed of by Ian Rumney and volunteers.

MC said that Ian Rumney would be reducing the hedge behind the house and the small hedge at the tip. Ian Rumney has given quotes for trimming all bushes in cemetery, clearing the tip, edging the memorial garden.

All committee members agreed with these, all happy with quotation.

10. **Rented House**

PW queried whether payments for management of the rented house were being taken twice. TH reassured that they were not.

There was a query from the tenants as to the correct electricity meter. WM clarified which meter was correct. TH will confirm with tenant.

MC questioned who was paying the water utility bill. TH explained there was only one water meter, so the cemetery was paying for all water.

11. **Sunken Graves**

Members discussed the problem with sunken graves. Tivoli filled them in, did a good job.

MC expressed disbelief that rain could have caused the sinking.

GG agreed to speak to Stewart at Tivoli to discuss different ways of filling graves in the future.

It was agreed that using a digger to fill in graves might be a solution.

12. **Historical Graves**

Discussion re: the budget for historical graves.

MC said that Ian Rumney could fill them, some just need sod, not much filling.

It was agreed to try this for one year and to set an upper limit for Ian filling in historical graves.

13. **Signage**

MC brought up the noticeboard, difficulties opening and using it.

It was suggested to move the noticeboard to the wall of the chapel. Clerk to contact John Thomas for a quote to remove it from current site and move to wall.

14. **Paths and Access**

PW – No need to discuss this, already covered.

15. **Clerk's Salary**

It was agreed to raise the clerk's hours from two to three per week.

16. **Clerk's Report**

The clerk reported that there had been a request to find a grave. GG and WM to look for details.

A letter of complaint was also reported, Clerk had replied to this letter.

Clerk also reported a letter from Granart, with prices rising from 1st December 2022.

17. **Chair and Member Reports**

MH discussed the possibility of reusable wreaths. GG commented that some councils have banned all wreaths but natural. HR agreed that looking to the future, this was the way to go.

GG spoke re: NALC. He had contacted Ruth Carr regarding this. NALC are trying to limit run off from cemeteries. Not the law yet, decision within the next six months.

MC updated that John is working on wildflower garden. Bulbs are all in, as are hedges. The perennials are in the memorial garden and need lots of compost, the most high maintenance plants are in the memorial garden.

PW told the Committee that this would be her last meeting. HR to move up to be chair and the Committee would have to elect a vice chair. PW wishes Committee luck.

18. Next meeting to be held on the 2nd February 2022.