

WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Email: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

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

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on 18th May 2022 in The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery

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

Also present: Chris Scott, Mayor, Wigton Town Council

1. Apologies – none
2. **Minutes from the last meeting of the Joint Committee**
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. No declarations of interest, etc.
4. Exclusion of press and public – none present.
5. No press or public present. We received a letter of complaint from a Mrs Clay regarding “inappropriate” mementos left on graves. A reply was sent explaining the need to give people time to grieve and remove those items themselves.
6. **Finance Matters**
No queries, all accounts and payments agreed on.
7. **Allerdale Borough Council**
Nothing to report.
8. **Approval of invoices and budget**
After some issues with payments, it was agreed the clerk would ask for payments every month for financial information and contact a Committee member if it wasn't forthcoming.
9. **Rented House**
TH confirmed there was nothing to report. All members had been forwarded appropriate statements. Rent has been paid and no feedback from the tenants.
10. **Rules And Regulations/Funeral Fees**
The Rules and Regulations on the Wigton Cemetery page of the Wigton Town Council needs to be updated, mostly rewording as the cemetery no longer has a curator. It was agreed the clerk should update the regulations, including the addition of balloons not being allowed in the cemetery. Funeral fees were discussed, noting that costs were rising and it was not feasible to keep fees at the current level. Burial fees will be increased to £850, with all other fees staying in line with Allerdale Bereavement Services. It was agreed by the committee that these fees would be reviewed every six months and increased further if necessary.
11. **Financial Update**
It was noted that Wigton Joint Burial Committee had not yet received a response from the Financial Committee at Wigton Town Council regarding the reduction in grant amount and the query of the Terms of Reference. It was agreed that committee members should meet with the Finance Committee of Wigton Town Council.

12. **Grave Digging/Sunken Graves**
It was discussed that Tivoli were now taking care of sunken graves when they were digging or filling other graves. So far this has worked well.
13. **Unsafe Headstones**
George informed us that the unsafe headstone check was well over halfway to completion, with only five problematic gravestones found so far. Ruth will continue to check and will contact families, if possible, to arrange for repairs.
14. **Anti-Social Behaviour**
Anti-social behaviour continues to be an ongoing problem at the cemetery. It was agreed that vigilance was the only current way forward and the situation would need to be monitored.
15. **Friends of Wigton Cemetery**
MC informed us that the Friends of Wigton Cemetery would be putting together a draft constitution, with a first meeting in June at the chapel. She also added that a member of the Wigton Burial Joint Committee would need to also be a member of the Friends of Wigton Cemetery Committee.
16. **Change in Authority**
It was discussed that cemeteries will most likely be one of the last organisations dealt with as they generally are stand-alone organisations. It was agreed to just carry on as normal until a decision is made.
17. **Frequency in Meetings**
It was decided that there may be a need in the future to have meetings more regularly, but for now the committee will stick to meetings every three months, with extra business meetings arranged as necessary.
18. **Clerk's Report**
The clerk reported that we had received an insurance certificate from a stonemasons. It was agreed that other insurance certificates should be obtained and kept on file.
19. **Chair and Member Reports**
HR informed the committee that a letter had gone to the Diocese regarding the deepening of a Grave, as the decision is ultimately theirs.
GG commented that some plaques needed to be removed and realigned and they were askew.
GG and WM commented on mapping the cemetery, stating that it is getting more difficult every section as extras have been added that aren't on the original plan.
MC commented that the flower beds would be completed in a couple of days.
HR reported that John had been approached about grass cutting and it was noted that there had been negative comments regarding this on social media.
20. **Date of Next Meeting**
10th of August 2022.