

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 10th August 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: Helen Telford

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. **Public Participation and Correspondence**

No press present. One member of the public present. Helen Telford came to speak to the WBJC about dogs being allowed in the cemetery and the dog fouling problem that it presents. Mrs Telford commented that there used to be a sign that stated no dogs were allowed in the cemetery. Committee members commented that this was a problem in many cemeteries and it is not an easy problem to solve, as we are unable to police any rules that we institute.

6. **Finance Matters**

All accounts and payments agreed on.

7. **Allerdale Borough Council**

HR told the committee that talks with Allerdale were still in progress, but there has been no progress yet. It was discussed there was an ongoing problem with large stones under the turf of new graves. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Tivoli to ask that the top six inches of soil are free of detritus.

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. It was noted that Wigton Joint Burial Committee had not yet received a response from the Finance Committee at Wigton Town Council regarding the reduction in grant amount and the query of the Terms of Reference. It was agreed that further discussions would need to be organised when the new Clerk was appointed to Wigton Town Council.

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. **Payment of Contractors/Grounds Maintenance**

MC commented that there had been a problem now for a year with regard to paying contractors. It was once again discussed and agreed that we should arrange a standing order to pay Ian Rumney regularly, with any extra work invoiced separately.

12. **Footpath**

It was reported that the footpath is in a dangerous state, with lots of broken up parts and no proper base. It was also noted that if other paths were flooded, this was the only path which could be used. All members agreed that this needs attention, a sub-committee of GG, WM, TH and MC would look at this.

13. **Disabled Access**

All members agreed that something has to be done to improve accessibility for the disabled at the cemetery. It was agreed that guidelines would be sought out for this and planning should begin.

14. **Side Gate**

It was agreed by all committee members that with effect from 1st September 2022, a combination lock should be placed on the side gate of the cemetery, WM to purchase.

15. **Clerk's Report**

Clerk reported that contact from Mrs Barbara Wright who was concerned about turf not taking and shrinkage on her husband's grave. It was agreed to check and deal with this. Clerk also reported updates to the website, with photos added and updating of all documents to pdf, as per request from WTC.

16. **Chair and Member Reports**

MC reported that there were a lot of graves where fake wreaths and other plastics were being left indefinitely. The committee agreed that there should be a three month limit on plastic memorial items.

GG reported that Ruth Carr from ABC had found three more unsafe headstones and was almost finished her latest inspections.

JH commented that hand driers and lights were being left on in the toilets. It was agreed to look into changing the light to a sensor light, GG and WM to look into this.

17. **Date of Next Meeting**

10th of November 2022.