

WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

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

Email address: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on 10th November 2022 in The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery

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

1. Apologies – G Girvan
2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.
3. No declarations of interest, etc.
4. Exclusion of press and public – none present.
5. No press or public present.
6. **Finance Matters**
No queries, all accounts and payments agreed on. It was discussed that the new Clerk at Wigton Town Council was trying to sort through a backlog of invoices and payments, which may take some time. It was confirmed that Julia Webster of Waverton Parish Council was trying to get the cemetery business rates looked at, as she has prior experience of this; also it might be a good step forward for the Friends of Wigton Cemetery to take over ownership of the public toilets at the cemetery.
7. **Allerdale Borough Council**
Matters with Allerdale Borough Council continue, there are no updates at this time.
8. **Rented House**
TH had distributed a report re: the rented house prior to the meeting. He confirmed the gas safety certification has been renewed. There are some jobs that need to be done, including repairs to the velux window and general maintenance. It was agreed that TH would arrange for professional costings for the work.
9. **New Plots**
WM advised that the next part of the cemetery to be used was Ward 3. It is proposed there will be space for both cremated remains and burials. A plan showed the layout of new plots in sections X and U. It was discussed that MC had spoken to a few people who were unhappy with layouts and headstones in parts of the cemetery and it was agreed this would be raised with Allerdale Bereavement Services.
10. **Seats**
It was agreed by all members that in the future members of the public must fill in a seat agreement before placing any seating in the cemetery and all seating will need to be approved in advance.
11. **Housekeeping**
MC expressed the importance of getting a self-closing mechanism on the toilet doors to stop leaves, etc, gathering inside them. TH agreed to ask Ian Green to remove some weeds growing under the

flashing. It was agreed that as the cemetery closes at sunset, the electricity will be turned off in the toilets to prevent the lights from being left on unnecessarily.

12. **Winter Maintenance Costs**

The summer costs for this year were £6889; Ian Rumney didn't charge for all work undertaken. It was agreed that costs for the next year should be increased by 10%, in line with rising costs. Winter maintenance costs are expected to come to £1500. MC confirmed that the plant budget had stayed in budget for the year.

13. **Cemetery Entrance**

It was discussed that quotations were still being sought for the cemetery entrance and paths. It was agreed to look into what would be the best surface to help with disabled access to the cemetery.

14. **Cenotaph/Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

The cemetery currently has 22 war graves. It was agreed to get a flag pole in the cemetery, all members agreed it should be inserted behind the cenotaph. It was also agreed that a War Graves Commission sign could be placed underneath the notice board.

15. **Repayment of Loans**

It was agreed by all members that a meeting needed to be arranged in November between the Wigton Burial Joint Committee and Wigton Town Council's Finance Committee to discuss finances going forward. Clerk to arrange.

16. **Clerk's Report**

The clerk informed members she had been in contact with Mrs Wright regarding the sunken state of her husband's grave. This has since been looked at and was on its way to being remedied.

17. **Chair and Member Reports**

It was discussed that sunken graves continue to be a problem, even though Tivoli are filling them in as and when required. It was agreed to ask that invoices sent from Tivoli in the future and more itemised, as they are difficult to decipher at present.

18. **Date of next meeting**

15th February 2023.