

WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE
Wigton Cemetery, Station Hill, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9BN
Email address: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

Draft minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on 15th February 2023 in The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery.

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

Also present: Chris Scott, Emma Todd

1. Apologies – none.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting of the Joint Committee**
One change was made to the minutes, then approved.
3. No declaration of interest, etc.
4. Exclusion of the press and public – none present.
5. **Public Participation and Correspondence**
No press or public present. Chris Scott, Mayor of Wigton and Emma Todd, Clerk of Wigton Town Council were present. There were no items on the agenda that had to be dealt with separately, on the grounds of confidentiality.
6. **Finance Matters**
Julia Webster has informed the committee that the business rates for the cemetery had been lessened. She has now gained access to the accounts and will progress with trying to get a further rebate. HR requested that GG thank Julia for her efforts.
7. **Rented House**
TH informed that the rent continues to be paid on time. The annual fire extinguisher test has been carried out. With regards to issues of damp in the rented house, it was established a specialist would be looking at this. It was confirmed with Emma Todd that in future invoices for the rented house would be separate to invoices for the cemetery.
8. **Grounds Maintenance**
MC advised winter works had gone according to plan. It was noted that WBJC owed Ian Rumney almost £3,000. Emma Todd advised that she would be happy to remind Ian Rumney to put invoices in on time in the future. It has previously been agreed that Ian Rumney would be paid by standing order for regular work, divided over all 12 months. This will start on the 1st of April 2023.
Also discussed was the irregularity of the graves in the last row, Ian Rumney has commented he will be unable to cut them with a lawnmower. It was agreed MC would ask Ian how much it would cost for him to top up or level graves that require it. All members agreed that the yearly inspection of the cemetery will take place in April of this year.
9. **Budget**
Emma Todd informed the WBJC members that payment for some bills had never been taken from the WBJC account and that she would have to work out the figure owed and rectify this.
HR questioned if everybody was in agreement with the budget? TH informed the committee that he was not in agreement. It was discussed that the accounts are currently worked out the wrong

way round. Emma Todd confirmed that any documents or changes to the budget could be done. It was also agreed all costs and income from the rented house should be dealt with separately. It was discussed that these points would be brought up at the next Finance Committee meeting at WTC and that WBJC would meet with the WTC to discuss this when the new committee was put together. HR thanked Emma Todd and Chris Scott for their help in these matters.

10. **Headstone Repairs**

GG reported that there are 24 headstones in need of repair, more than had been anticipated. Ruth Carr at ABC has confirmed that three will be paid for by the families. Once the report is received other family checks will be done. After that quotes will be required from memorial companies to do all headstones over the next two years.

11. **Mapping**

WM and GG discussed that they had found mistakes in the mapping all the way back to the 1860s. Mapping is almost complete, with only a few queries left. Ruth Carr at ABC is working towards the computerisation of the mapping.

12. **Meetings**

All members agreed that Committee meetings should be more frequent, going forward these will be every two months.

13. **Precepts 2023/2024**

Precepts were to be approved at the Finance Committee meeting on the 16th of February. Precepts would be confirmed following that. The underpayment of Wigton's precept from last year would also be discussed at this meeting.

14. **Friends of Wigton Cemetery**

MC reported that the Friends have met and now have a constitution. MC is currently trying to open a bank account at the Cumberland Building Society. Nothing else can be done until the bank account is opened, however, MC stated there were a few people interested in joining.

15. **Clerk's Report**

The clerk had been contacted by a member of the public looking for grave details for an ancestor. This was passed to WM to look into.

16. **Chair and Member Reports**

It was agreed that a disclaimer sign is needed on the noticeboard so that people with problems can go direct to Tivoli. Emma Todd also suggested making a Facebook page for the cemetery for news, rules and updates. All members agreed this was a good idea.

17. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 19th April. The meeting will begin with the annual site check, therefore, will start at 6.30.