WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Email: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

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

Minutes of meeting held at 7.15pm on 21st June 2023 in The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery

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

Also present: Chris Scott, Mayor, Wigton Town Council

1. Apologies – J Mattinson

2. **Minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Committee**

The minutes were approved without objection.

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 Town Council was present. There were no items on the agenda that had to be dealt with separately, on the grounds of confidentiality.

6. **Finance Matters**

The Clerk at WTC had raised a query about precepts for Waverton and Woodside. GG told the committee that invoices were needed for both of these precepts. It was agreed by all that it was best to refund any overpayments to keep everything straight. It was agreed that HR would talk to Emma about this and also remind her that WBJC had requested a balance sheet for finances.

7. **Rented House**

TH reported that the rent was still being paid on time. He further reported that Donaldsons are liaising with the tenants regarding work at the property, a pacifier was still required in the kitchen and a chimney sweep was required.

8. **Dogs in the Cemetery**

It was discussed that the cemetery is seeing a rise in dogs being allowed to run free. It was agreed that three signs should be put in place – one at the end of the new path, one where path veers to the left and one at the bottom end of the cemetery. The sign should say that dogs must be kept on a lead less than six feet long at all times in the cemetery.

9. **Shrubs at Headstones**

Shrubs that have been planted at headstones are starting to cause problems. It was decided by committee members that if this was the case, the owner of the affected headstones should be contacted to remedy the problem; if they did not respond to this, the shrub will be removed by WBJC.

10. **Headstone Update**

GG reported he is waiting on quotes for the headstone repairs; one mason has been round to look at the headstones, once the other comes they will be able to get both quotes. MC commented that another loose headstone was found, Ruth Carr has made a record of it. There are 24 loose headstones altogether.

11. **Entrance**

MC told the committee that last winter water started to stand on the paths. It was agreed it might be a good idea to plan what is possible now, as well a considering disabled access into the cemetery. It was agreed that MC would ask Ian Rumney to work out a plan for the paths, with work to be carried out in next year’s budget. It was agreed to ringfence the money for this now.

12. **Bench**

WBJC have been approached about siting a new bench in the cemetery. It was agreed that any new bench must be next to a path and must not impinge on other graves. It was suggested the committee members meet with the member of public to discuss siting the bench.

13. **Fees**

All committee members agreed that the cemetery’s fees need to be raised, using a combination of mirroring Cumberland Council’s new rates and Allerdale’s rates. All new rates were agreed and an updated pricelist is to be put on the website with rates applying from 1st August 2023. Copies of the new pricelist also to be sent to Ruth Carr and local funeral directors.

14. **Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk reported that she was preparing to hand the role over to Emma at Wigton Town Council. The last day of employment for the current clerk is 30th June 2023.

15. **Chair and Member Reports**

HR commented that the committee need to seriously look at grave digging in the cemetery, as Tivoli are no longer fit for purpose. Ian Davidson is willing to discuss requirements with Ruth Carr and accommodate her needs, however, WBJC would be required to buy a soil box for him. GG confirmed Ruth has no problems with this as long as she can work with him and he has the correct safety objectives in place.

WM/GG reported that the sewage tank is not functioning properly and someone will be coming out to look at it. It was discussed that this will need to be cleaned every year and should also be inspected annually.

16. **Date of Next Meeting**

HR suggested moving the WBJC meeting to the first Wednesday of the month, so that reports can be made to the WTC meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. All were in agreement. The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 6th of September 2023.