

A MEETING OF THE WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT-

Councillor Mary Clark (Acting Chairman)
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor John Hamblin
Councillor John Mattinson
Councillor George Girvan
Councillor Tony Huntington
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor William Marrs
Councillor Chris Scott

WBJC/45/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Councillor Hamblin

WBJC/46/2024 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD

To agree the minutes of 31st July – Approved
To agree the minutes of 21st October - Approved

WBJC/47/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NONE

WBJC/48/2024 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Pursuant to the section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of agenda item 9.

Public and press were excluded from agenda item 12.2

WBJC/49/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tenants from Cemetery House were in attendance to query why the hedge had been removed. It was explained that the hedge was removed as it was dead. The grounds maintenance contractor and Cllr Hamblin had inspected the hedge and agreed it needed to be removed and replaced with a 4ft Hornbeam hedge.

The tenants complained they lacked privacy with their garden now being too open making it difficult to see the boundary between the cemetery grounds and their garden. The tenants also highlighted that the hedge blocked visitors from looking through the downstairs bathroom window as it was not frosted and now the hedge had been removed, they would not be able to use this downstairs bathroom which is

essential for them. Members were not aware that the window was not frosted so unanimously agreed to replace the window and have a blind fitted as soon as possible. **ACTION** – Clerk to organise a replacement window and blind to be fitted.

Tenants went on to suggest the WBJC erect a fence, members explained it was not in their budget to replace the hedge and erect a fence.

WBJC/50/2024 FINANCE MATTERS

6.1 To review and amend the 2025/2026 draft budget

Members received a paper copy of the draft budget with all estimated income and expenditure included. The deficit was left blank initially to allow for any changes in this meeting.

Members discussed the budget in detail looking at estimated income and estimated expenditure and queried several lines before making alterations. It was suggested that to calculate the deficit, only the estimated income and expenditure for the cemetery would be used and would not include the cemetery house.

The burial income is made up of several elements which were listed on the spreadsheet but only an estimated total income was input as the breakdown in not received. It was agreed to just have a burial sales line on the budget instead of having it itemised with no figures attached.

Members discussed using a gardener on an adhoc basis to help look after the cemetery gardens. A gardener was recommended who charges £22ph which was added to the budget.

After adjustments were made the deficit was £10739 which would become the precept request from Wigton, Waverton and Woodside parishes.

ACTION – Clerk to update website with pictures of completed entrance works.

Members asked what was happening with the disabled bays, it was agreed a sign would be placed on a post. **ACTION** – Disabled sign needs to be purchased.

It was highlighted that some dog walkers are allowing their dogs to use the war memorial area as a toilet. It was discussed whether a small tasteful sign could be placed here to warn dog walkers. Members discussed the pros of having CCTV as not only would it be a form of security, it could deter dog walkers using the war memorial area. **ACTION** – clerk to look into CCTV costs and regulations.

It was discussed whether CCTV could be used for security, it also might be a deterrent for dog walkers who allow the

6.2 To agree on the precept required from Wigton, Waverton and Woodside parish councils.

It was agreed that the precept total would be £10739 and following this meeting the budget would be updated to include the % split for Wigton, Waverton and Woodside and would be sent out to all members.

WBJC/51/2024 HEADSTONE AND CENOTAPH REPAIRS – Cllr Girvan

Not much has changed from the previous meeting, still waiting for a quote for the cenotaph. 14 headstones out of 24 have now been repaired.

WBJC/52/2024 GRAVE DIGGING – Cllr Clark

Bereavement services recommended speaking to a grave digger from the Carlisle team who could offer some advice. Contact has been made but there has been no meeting yet as one of the Carlisle team had passed away so it hasn't been the right time to have these conversations. Contact will be made again in the New Year.

It was reported that there have been improvements in the number of graves that have sunk and currently there were no graves requiring attention.

WBJC/53/2024 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There are often emails or queries that have only been sent to the three chairs, it was highlighted that all members including the clerks should have access to all information so it was agreed that all members would be included in emails.

WBJC/54/2024 ENTRANCE IMPROVMENTS – Cllr Marrs

It was reported that all improvements have been completed with the finished job looking better than expected. White paint is required on the gates because of the gate catch, it was an issue as some people could not see because of the sun.

Cllr Clark and the rest of the committee thanked Cllr Marrs for all his hard work.

WBJC/55/2024 CEMETERY ESTATE

12.1 To discuss the winter maintenance.

Winter maintenance is ongoing which included tidying the tip area and looking at the saplings. It was suggested that any mulch could be kept on a tarpaulin as it could be used for future jobs.

