

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present:

Councillors S Buck, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, S Hayes

Also present:

E. Payne, Town Clerk, Ms C Jenkins, Assistant Clerk, Councillor J Smith.

26/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bhasin and Mrs Hyde.

27/23 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no disclosures of interest or requests for dispensation. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

28/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

29/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cemetery Management Committee meeting held on 19th July 2023 are confirmed as a correct record.

30/23 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Members noted that the Walled Garden of Rest now needed the adjacent flower beds replanting. A suggestion to aid the biodiversity in the cemetery was to plant Lavender in the area.

It was also noted that the archway in the Diana Memorial Garden was now broken. Although the roses seem to be growing very well, they are now holding the wooden archway together.

RESOLVED that following consultation, Lavender plants would be sourced and planted in the Walled Garden of Rest. Town Rangers will be asked to tend these plants so they do not get overgrown.

ALSO RESOLVED that quotes for a new metal arch are sourced and raised at the next meeting. The roses are to then be cut back and the wooden archway removed.

It was also noted that the Euonymus plants adjacent to the Beacon Garden of Rest need to be weeded. Town Rangers will be asked to tend these plants.

31/23 QUOTE FOR TREE WORKS AT STOTFOLD CEMETERY

Members were asked to consider quotes from Steve Dear Trees for tree maintenance work at the cemetery:

To fell and Grind 14 Box Bushes and to Prune the Copper Beech to clear chapel roof. £1480 .00 + VAT

Fell Raywood Ash leaving a high stump. £120.00 + VAT

Weeping Ash x2 – raise crowns to 3.5 m, prune to remove deadwood and balance crowns. £320.00 + VAT

Remove all arisings from sites.

RESOLVED members agreed for all above tree works to be carried out.

32/23 QUOTE FOR RE-LETTERING OF NAME ON WAR MEMORIAL

Members received an enquiry from a resident to state that her grandfathers name has been miss-spelt on the War memorial, and a request for this to be corrected.

A quote to amend the lettering on the War memorial has been requested, but sadly was not available for the meeting. This item will be returned to the next committee meeting.

33/23 STOTFOLD CEMETERY – BIODIVERSITY

Members received feedback from the Assistant Clerk regarding a seminar she recently attended entitled “Making Space for nature in our Burial Grounds”.

She also noted that some visitors to the cemetery have recently contacted the office about voluntary work at the cemetery, watering plants, weeding and litter picking. The idea was also raised to set up a “Friends of Stotfold Cemetery”.

34/23 CEMETERY SKIP

Members discussed the recent complaints about the smell and location of the skip in Stotfold Cemetery. It has been discussed to relocate the skip to allocated land at Arlesey Road. Waste provision would be replaced at the cemetery by 2 large carts, 1 for rubbish and 1 for green waste.

RESOLVED: that the skip be relocated to Arlesey Road, suggested that a lockable skip be investigated. 2 Large rubbish and recycling carts to replace the skip. Possible hardstanding and fenced off area may be required.

35/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Work to be carried out – Box spraying (to be monitored per season)
Arrange for Town Rangers to be sent on spraying courses.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.25pm.

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: