

Cemetery Working Party

Minutes

14.00 hrs, 20th October 2021
Burbage Cemetery, Lychgate Lane, Burbage

Present: Cllrs Mr P Williams, Mr S Attenborough, Mrs A Hall, Mrs S Iliffe and Mrs M Sherwin. Mr A Harrison (Estates Manager), Ms J Perry (Principal Officer & Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Williams was asked and agreed to continue with the chair of the group.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Lynch.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting 15th September 2020 were accepted as a true record

4. Driveway to the Rose Garden

In walking from the car park area towards the memorial rose garden to the south west corner of the cemetery, members noted the appearance of the cemetery in bays 1-21 was in good order and very presentable. In this context the following points were noted for consideration of improvement:

- Cleaning of Memorial Benches, including moss beneath the benches
- Moss growth on the drive/walkway area

It was noted that these identified considerations have been highlighted due to the high quality presentation of other aspects and there may be issues which need remediation from earlier years and does not reflect upon the performance of the recently appointed maintenance contractor.

5. Memorial Rose Garden

Members reviewed the recent correspondence received regarding the nature and condition of the Rose Garden. Members did not agree with the comments received that the rose garden has deteriorated as a respectful area of commemoration. Members are, however, keen that the rose garden should be maintained at a high standard and the following items were requested for review:

- Permanent signs, reminding users of rules, in the bed should be considered which are more in keeping with the nature of the area. Possibly with signs being posted away from the beds giving more details.

- The tree canopy is reviewed by an arboricultural expert to ensure the canopy is well managed and does not become too dominant.
- The roots of some trees are now breaking through the surface in a number of areas. An expert view will be sought on how best to manage them and make them safe with potential new beds to cover those roots which must remain.
- A review of all memorial benches should be carried out as examples were found to be of poor condition.
- Examples of self set trees, including holly were noted that need to be removed.

6. Driveway between Bay 21 and Bay 22

A large, what is believed to be a self set tree, near the Peggy Howard memorial Tree is to be investigated.

A further memorial bench needs reviewing.

7. Trees in Bay 20

Ivy is encroaching and growing on trees in Bay 20.

8. Bays 24-27

The path in this area needs review as signs of movement may at some stage lead to trip hazards.

The general appearance and operation of this area was noted as very good, in line with earlier comments.

9. Toilet Block Tank

The issue regarding the tank needing additional emptying was discussed but no conclusions as to cause can yet be established. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

10. Memorial Bench Policy

It was agreed to consider reviewing the memorial bench policy for the cemetery and to consider, if revised, maintenance arrangements would be appropriate.

11. Cemetery Expansion

The principal Officer undertook to update members of the current rate of Plot Sales (both for immediate use and reservations) to provide guidance on the timescales for the expansion need.

Members reviewed the extension field and agreed that plans should be made to progress the plan preparations to the next stage, subject to staff resource in the office to manage the process. It was agreed that the Principal Officer should investigate how the project can be brought to the next stage and how cemetery

planning consultants can be engaged to lead members through the planning and design stages.

It was agreed that members would not engage directly in the design concepts at this stage but would draw up considerations, identified to date:

- The expansion will need to consider car parking in the new area
- The expansion will need to consider a route to the compound at the rear of the new area for access
- The expansion should include maintenance facilities associated with a cemetery such as grass cutting and excavation spoil storage.

In addition to the items listed above members would seek guidance of the options for:

- "Natural" burials
- Access to the existing Woodland Area from the expanded location.

It was recommended that a project be put forward to the budgeting process for preparations to start on the cemetery expansion.

12. Woodland Area

The Estates Officer gave members a tour of the woodland area to view improvements made. Members agreed that steps should be taken to establish how the opening within the woodland area could be exploited further to give different options for the scattering of ashes in the woodland setting. The Estates Officer will bring forward options to the working party to consider.

13. Date of Next Meeting

To be Confirmed