

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th July 2018
AT ELLESMERE TOWN HALL

Members Present:

Chair : John Baker

Vice Chair : John Frost

Councillors : Pat Clubbe, Graham Dyke, Kay Egerton, Geoff Elner, Paul Goulbourne, Anne Wignall & Judith Williams

The annual visit to the cemetery by Councillors took place prior to tonight's meeting. The weather was pleasant and the Cemetery generally looked in good condition. Mandy Evans, the Town Clerk, had given her apologies to the Cemetery Co-ordinator and did not attend this evening's visit. Councillors viewed various parts of the Cemetery. Mention was made regarding the possible removal of two conifer trees close to the main entrance gate which had become obtrusive to this area. These could possibly be replaced by two new yew trees. Attention was again paid to a previously problematic grave in the N Section following Councillor Egerton advising that Paul Sumner, Funeral Director, had recently received complaints regarding the grave. It was felt that the current state of the grave was not untoward and was acceptable to Councillors especially as it formed part of the grieving process for the family in this particularly sad case. It was noted that some undergrowth was protruding through parts of the Cremorne Gardens fence and Sean Berkey will be asked to remove this. To the right and rear of the Memorial Garden extension it was noted that grave spoil had been tipped over the fence onto land belonging to Claire Wilde. This had obviously been placed there by a gravedigger who should, in fact, have removed any grave spoil totally from the Cemetery. The CC will arrange for the removal of this spoil and the placing of a notice on the fence regarding the situation. A blue plastic tub and flat board on site will also be removed. Councillors discussed the possibility of allowing memorial plaques to be placed on the pillars at the Memorial Garden even if no ashes had been interred there.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present this evening.

Apologies Received

Apologies had been received from Councillor Jen Clayton and Mandy Evans.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

Public Participation Session

Nothing further was discussed.

28/18 Minutes


RESOLVED: the minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2018 are approved, confirmed and signed.

29/18 Matters Arising

No specific matters were raised.

30/18 Cemetery Working Group (update)

The Cemetery Co-ordinator advised Councillors that the two bank accounts had now finally been transferred into the name of Ellesmere Town Council. He advised that he had sent Mandy Evans



details of the income he has received to date but, as yet, had not received any financial information from Mandy. Councillor Baker felt that we should have a financial report in advance of each and every meeting of the Cemetery Working Group. Councillor Elner thought that we should invite Mandy and the Town Mayor to clarify how everything is going to work regarding the CWG. Councillor Williams said that she would speak to Mandy and the Mayor to arrange a meeting in order that Councillors could discuss the whole situation with them. Once this has been arranged the CC will e-mail all Councillors with the details.

31/18 New grave space in Swan Hill Cemetery

Following our previous meeting the CC had advised Mandy of what had been discussed regarding the proposed taking up one of the tarmac path(s) at the top of the cemetery to allow for new grave space. Mandy had advised the CC that, as no allowance for such work had been made in the ETC budget for this current year, the proposal would be looked at again next year.

32/18 Former Ellesmere Workhouse Cemetery

Mandy had also advised the CC that the situation regarding the former workhouse cemetery proposal would likewise be deferred to a later date.

33/18 Shropshire Council Burial Capacity Survey

The CC had sent all Councillors a copy of this survey request from Mark Foxall of Shropshire Council. Councillor Frost and the CC will go through this and answer all the points raised. The CC will then respond back to Mark Foxall by 10th August as requested.

34/18 Cemetery Report

The CC advised Councillors that since the meeting on 31st May there had only been two interments. Both were cremated remains (one was a re-opening in the B Section and one was a new double in the Memorial Garden extension).

The CC had met with Paul Jones (Contract Manager) of Greenfingers and gone through various issues that had arisen since Vince Gilroy had left them and taken various schedules of work with him. The CC was pleased to report that Paul had very quickly dealt with the most pressing matters within 24 hours and the rest will be dealt with going forward. He advised that weed spraying will continue on an ongoing basis until they are on top of the situation.

One tonne of topsoil had been placed in the soil store at the rear of the Chapel and four new watering cans had been purchased for the cemetery.

The CC had been advised by Jo Butterworth (assistant Town Clerk) that both of the EPJBC bank accounts were now in the name of ETC and a paying-in book had been received by ETC. Jo was now paying in all the relevant cheques given to her by the CC.

The income received by the CC for the year to date is :

Interments	£2,305.00
Headstones / Memorial vases	£1,900.00
Chapel use	£ 75.00
Total	£4,280.00

35/18 Correspondence received to date

The CC advised that he had received an e-mail from Councillor Anne Wignall since the Agenda had been sent out. She wanted to discuss the possibility of her writing a short piece about developments at the cemetery for inclusion in local papers. Oswestry Borough Council had put something out about their new town cemetery garden of remembrance and she would like to do something similar detailing improvements that had been made to the cemetery, possibly since 2015 which was the 150th anniversary year of the cemetery opening. Councillors felt that this was a good idea and the CC will go through the various improvements made with her and Anne will draft something for press inclusion.

Date of next scheduled meeting

Thursday 27th September 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Ellesmere Town Hall

End of meeting.

