

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 31st May 2018
AT ELLESMERE TOWN HALL

Members Present:

Chair : John Baker

Vice Chair : John Frost

Councillors : Jen Clayton and Anne Wignall

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present this evening.

17/18 Election of Chair for 2018 / 2019

Councillor Wignall proposed that Councillor Baker should continue as Chair for the next year. This was seconded by Councillor Clayton with all in favour. With no other nominations being received Councillor Baker was again installed as Chair.

18/18 Election of Vice Chair for 2018 / 2019

Councillor Wignall proposed that Councillor Frost should continue as Vice Chair for the next year. This was seconded by Councillor Clayton with all in favour. With no other nominations being received Councillor Frost was again installed as Vice Chair.

Apologies Received

Apologies had been received from Councillors David Bevan, Pat Clubbe, Kay Egerton, Geoff Elner, Paul Goulbourne and Judith Williams.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

Public Participation Session

Nothing further was discussed.

19/18 Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2018 are approved, confirmed and signed.

20/18 Matters Arising

No specific matters were raised.

21/18 Cemetery Working Group (current update on situation)

The Cemetery Co-ordinator told Councillors that he had nothing in particular to report. He advised that he was continuing in his role as normal other than he had no responsibility for any financial matters which were now being dealt with by Ellesmere Town Council. Councillor Baker advised that the asset split between ETC and the Rural Parish Council were causing problems for the Clerk of the Rural Parish Council and, in particular, with regard to an external audit which was due but had now been deferred for a period of time.

22/18 Standing Orders

The CC advised Councillors that the Cemetery Working Group would be working to the Standing Orders which are available to view on the ETC website. He also advised Councillors that he had been told by the Town Clerk that these did not need to be adopted by the CWG.

23/18 New grave space in Swan Hill Cemetery

The CC will contact the Town Clerk regarding taking up one of the tarmac paths at the top of the cemetery to allow for new grave space and installing a new non-tarmac path adjacent to the top fence. It is estimated that this would create space for 27 new graves (doubles) and three quotes would be required for the proposal.

24/18 Former Ellesmere Workhouse Cemetery

Councillors again discussed this and would like ETC to consider taking over the ownership of the old Ellesmere Workhouse Cemetery, which has been long neglected, and both tidying it up and looking after the future maintenance of the area. This will necessitate removal of some trees and vegetation and possibly building a new surrounding wall. It was also felt that possibly a new gate, bench and memorial plaque of some kind could be sited there. Mention was made of possibly incorporating the area as part of the historical Mere walk as it is believed that quite a few residents of Ellesmere may well be unaware of its existence. It may be that some grants might be available towards the cost of the work and these could be looked into if ETC is agreeable to the proposal. The CC will contact the Town Clerk to see if, and how, the matter can be progressed.

25/18 Cemetery Regulations

The CC mentioned that he had been reading through the Cemetery Regulations recently and thought that some further alterations and amendments may be required to parts of the existing regulations and in particular as and when new grave space became available. . It was agreed to look at this in due course.

26/18 Cemetery Report

The CC advised Councillors that since the meeting on 29th March there had been eight interments. Four were coffin interments (two new doubles in the N Section, one new single in the M 'C' Section and one re-opening in the E Section). Four were cremated remains interments (two re-openings in the original Memorial Garden and two new doubles in the Memorial Garden extension).

The Chapel had again been used for a funeral service in April. Councillor Wignall again mentioned that the chaplain of Ellesmere College was hoping to hold an All Souls Service in the Chapel on 1st November this year. The CC advised that, as yet, he had not been contacted by the chaplain and would wait to hear from him to discuss the possibility further.

Shropshire Council had advised that the rate relief on non-domestic rates for the Cemetery was likely to be abolished next year. The demand notice for 2018/19 shows that we are in credit to the sum of £323.00.

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

Interments	£1,935.00
Headstones / Memorial vases	£1,105.00
Chapel use	£ 75.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£3,115.00</u>


27/18 Correspondence received to date

The CC advised that no correspondence specific to the CWG had yet been received.

Date of next scheduled meeting

Thursday 26th July 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Ellesmere Town Hall (to be preceded by the annual Councillors Cemetery visit at 6.00 p.m.) The CC will invite the Town Clerk to attend the annual visit prior to the meeting.

End of meeting.



26.7.18