

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th October 2018
AT ELLESMERE TOWN HALL

Members Present:

Chair : John Baker

Vice Chair : not present tonight

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

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present this evening.

Apologies Received

Apologies had been received from Councillors Pat Clubbe and Jen Clayton

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

Public Participation Session

Nothing further was discussed.

36/18 Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2018 are approved, confirmed and signed.

37/18 Matters Arising

Councillor Williams raised again the matter of the old workhouse cemetery. Councillors again discussed the matter in some detail and expressed their wishes to press on with the acquisition of the cemetery in its present condition. Councillors discussed the possibility of obtaining quotes to do certain work on the site once it had been agreed just what this work should be. It was noted that we could have a site meeting in order to assess what the CWG wanted to achieve in this regard before going ahead and getting quotes. However, the Cemetery Co-ordinator advised Councillors that we were not in a position to do this without the authority of the Town Council. He also stated that he understood that Shropshire Council had not yet agreed to transfer this area to the Town Council and that the TC would require the area to be made good prior to any possible transfer. Hence, he suggested that Councillor Williams should contact Mandy Evans in order to raise the matter again at the next Town Council meeting on 5th November and Councillor Williams agreed to speak to Mandy regarding this. Councillor Wignall mentioned that this area might prove suitable as a "quiet area" for contemplation.

38/18 Informal meeting held with Mandy Evans on 2nd August 2018

Councillors were in agreement that this meeting greatly helped to clarify the situation and various items of contention. The CC had forwarded on to all CWG councillors notes of this meeting which had been written up by Phil Smith (Assistant Town Clerk).

39/18 Risk Assessment Annual Review

The CC advised Councillors that he had spoken to Mandy regarding this and had given her a copy of our last document which was dated October 2017. He wanted to know if the risk assessment should continue to be carried out by the CWG or if this was an area which she wanted to incorporate into the TC's responsibility. She advised that she would need to look into this further and the CC agreed to defer this until the next CWG meeting in November.



40/18 Financial information received from Mandy Evans

The CC gave Councillors present copies of financial information provide by Mandy relating to the CWG. This included a reconciled bank balance as at 30th August 2018. She advised that the Woosnam & Excel bank balance was the same as the 2017- 2018 year end figure i.e. £2,399.97. The CC advised Councillors that if they had any queries regarding the information supplied to let him know and he would speak to Mandy.

41/18 Cemetery Co-ordinator's Report

The CC advised that since our last meeting on 26th July there had only been three interments. Two were re-openings (one in the C Section and one in the H Section) and the other was a new single in the M Section.

The CC advised that he had arranged to meet with Paul Jones (Greenfingers) at the cemetery to discuss some issues that we were still having but he was unable to make the appointment on the day. Some of the issues were dealt with the following day but it continues to be an ongoing process of chasing them up to get some work attended to. Councillors discussed the whole question regarding future grounds maintenance once the current contract with Greenfingers ended (31st May 2019). The CC advised that he had spoken to Mandy about this and had agreed that we would need to initiate obtaining new quotes early in the New Year. Mandy advised that, as the value of any contract would be less than £25,000, we didn't need to get tenders but rather just obtain three quotes. The CC advised that a more detailed specification of works will need to be drawn up prior to obtaining any quotes. It was agreed to put this as an Agenda item for our November meeting. Councillor Dyke advised that he may know someone who would be interested in quoting.

Chris Egerton had removed the two conifer trees near the entrance to the cemetery and trimmed the hedge by the gate. The CC advised that whilst he was at the cemetery with Chris they were both approached by a female resident who lived nearby and who complained regarding the height of the yew trees adjacent to the road which she said spoiled her view and too the light. She wanted them to be cut down from the top quite substantially. She also mentioned that the trees affected the telephone line when it was windy or they were laden with snow. Councillors discussed this and agreed that the yew trees should remain as they are. The CC will speak to Mandy regarding trimming back from the telephone line and trimming by the telegraph pole. The view was expressed that Chris Egerton should be asked to carry out this work.

Councillor Baker had arranged for Mike Jones to remove the dumped spoil by the Memorial Garden and restore the area. This had now been done and Councillor Baker had arranged for four notices to be placed on the Cremorne Gardens fence regarding tipping. The CC advised that he had written to all relevant funeral directors regarding the matter (a copy of this was sent to all Councillors) and can only hope that his comments are taken to heart.

Sean Berkey of Shropshire Council has now been contacted and he has agreed to cut back the vegetation growth coming through parts of the Cremorne Gardens fence.

The CC advised that Mandy Evans would like to frame an old map of the cemetery given to her by Councillor Frost and put it on display at the Town Hall. Councillors thought this was an excellent idea. The CC advised that the income he had received for the year 1st April to date is :

Interments	£3,155.00
Headstones / MV	£2,135.00
Chapel use	£ 75.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>£5,365.00</u>
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42/18 Correspondence received to date

The CC advised Councillors that no correspondence specific to the CWG had been received since our last meeting.

Date of next scheduled meeting

Thursday 29th November 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Ellesmere Town Hall.

Councillor Anne Wignall gave her apologies for this meeting.

End of meeting.



29-11-18