

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF "ZOOM" MEETING HELD ON 28th January 2021

Members Present:

Chair : Paul Goulbourne

Councillors : John Baker, Pat Clubbe, Graham Dyke, Kay Egerton, Geoff Elner,
John Frost, Tim Hunter, Graham Hutchinson and Anne Wignall

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

Apologies Received

No apologies had been received for tonight's meeting. All Councillors were in attendance.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

Public Participation Session

Not applicable.

01/21 Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2020 are confirmed, approved and signed.

02/21 Matters Arising :

Proposed new metalwork benches for the Cemetery

The Cemetery Co-ordinator advised Councillors that he had only been able to obtain one "like for like" quote to compare with that previously received from Mike Jones regarding the proposed benches and arbour. This was from Stokes of England but the prices they quoted were substantially more to supply the same specifications given by Mike Jones. Councillor Baker had sent the CC some pictures and quotations from the internet but these were for different specifications and did not even closely resemble the specifications advised by Mike Jones. The CC advised that he had sent everything he had received to Jo Butterworth who advised that the matter would be discussed at the next Ellesmere Town Council meeting which was due to be held on 1st February. Councillor Baker advised that it would probably take Mike Jones six weeks to make the three proposed benches and arbour. The question of fitting the benches and arbour was raised. Mike Jones had not quoted for this on his original quote. It was agreed that Councillor Baker would speak to Mike Jones to obtain his likely costs for siting the four items.

03/21 Old Workhouse Cemetery

Councillors again discussed the situation relating to this cemetery. Councillor Hunter, who works for Shropshire Council, advised Councillors that he had asked Countryside and Heritage North Shropshire, headed by Shaun Burkey, if they would be prepared to take on the Workhouse Cemetery as an extension of the Mere and Cremorne Gardens in order to create a greenspace of historical significance. This could be looked after by the Mere Ranger and Warden with a team of local volunteers. Shaun Burkey was enthusiastic about the idea and, as it is currently owned by Shropshire Council, it would remain in their possession but transferred to Shaun's department. Councillor Hunter felt that this was the simplest solution and that a renovation and upkeep budget would be allocated for the cemetery. As a place of significant local and historical interest it may be possible for Shropshire Council to raise outside grants in support thus alleviating pressure on the already very squeezed greenspace budget. Councillor Hunter suggested that we leave Jo Butterworth to pursue her contact with Shropshire Council and advised that he had given Jo the information as above. We could then wait and see how it all develops. Councillor Hunter advised that he was determined to make it happen. Councillors fully supported everything that Councillor Hunter had said and will now await developments.

04/21 Cemetery Fees (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022)

Councillors unanimously agreed to keep the relevant fees and charges for the coming year the same as for the current year. The CC will advise Jo Butterworth accordingly in order that this agreement can be approved by ETC. Once the CC has received confirmation of this he will advise all relevant parties.

05/21 CWG Press release (as proposed by Councillor Wignall)

Councillor Wignall mentioned the recent article regarding the cemetery in "The Advertiser" newspaper which gave some totally erroneous information and had caused some upset to various parties. She felt that perhaps, at some stage, we should issue a press release which would inform readers about the work of the CWG to counteract the bad publicity the above article had generated. Councillor Goulbourne felt that this was a good idea and Councillor Egerton thought perhaps this could be done to coincide with the siting of the benches and arbour when the weather is likely to be better. All Councillors agreed with this and the CC will put it on the Agenda for our next meeting in March for further discussion.

06/21 Financial Information received from ETC

As normal the CC had previously e-mailed Councillors with all relevant financial information relating to the CWG he had received prior to tonight's meeting. This showed that the finances of the CWG continue to be in a healthy state.

07/21 Cemetery Co-ordinator's Report

The CC advised Councillors that since our last meeting on 21st November there had been five interments at the cemetery. Three were cremated remains interments into the Memorial Garden extension area and two were coffin interments. Both of these were re-openings, one into the D Section and one into the N Section.

It will soon be necessary to site an additional row (or two) of cement plinths in the Memorial Garden extension area. The CC advised that he had recently spoken to Steve Jones (who placed the original plinths) regarding this and he said he would see to this as soon he was able to.

The CC advised that, as yet, we have not utilised the new Q Section for interments (new double / triple graves) but it will only be a matter of time before we do so.

Gerald and Katrina Pritchard, the tenants at the Lodge, had recently advised that their gas boiler had ceased to work leaving them without heat or hot water. Jo Butterworth had problems arranging for an engineer to look at the situation but eventually managed to get a plumber (Alan Hall) to have a look. He identified that the pump was faulty but it was a job that he could not do. Princes were requested to attend and when they did they also

confirmed that the pump had gone and that the boiler was unrepairable and advised the fitting of a new boiler. The following day ETC contacted Alan Hall again who attended the property within the hour and managed to get the boiler temporarily working again giving both heat and hot water to the tenants. Meanwhile ETC had asked for tenders from three companies in order that Councillors at tonight's meeting could make a decision to be put to Councillors at the ETC meeting next Monday. Having perused and discussed the tender information supplied by ETC, Councillors unanimously agreed to support Company No. 1 who had quoted with both the lowest cost and longest warranty period (£1,900.00 and 10 years respectively). The CC will advise Jo Butterworth of this in order that it can now be discussed, and hopefully agreed, at the ETC meeting.

The CC advised Councillors that the Income he had received for the year to date was :

Interments	£6,130.00
Headstones / MV	£1,770.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£7,900.00</u>

Date of next scheduled meeting ("ZOOM")

Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

End of meeting.

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