

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF IMPROMPTU MEETING HELD ON 29th July 2021
OUTSIDE ELLESMERE TOWN HALL

Members Present:

Chair : Paul Goulbourne

Vice Chair : Graham Dyke

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

The annual visit to the cemetery by Councillors took place prior to tonight's meeting. The weather was warm and sunny and the cemetery was looking in pristine condition as noted by Councillors. Groundforce had visited earlier in the day. Councillors toured the cemetery and certain matters were raised which will be dealt with by the Cemetery Co-ordinator. Councillors were very pleased to see the new arbour and benches, made by Mike Jones, in situ. A photograph was taken with some Councillors sitting on and close to the arbour. During the visit mention was again made regarding having an area inside the cemetery close to the main entrance gates re-surfaced with tarmac and the CC will pursue this possibility.

The meeting which was due to follow the visit had to be held outside the Town Hall as there was no-one onsite to let the group into the Town Hall

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present this evening.

Apologies Received

Apologies had been received from Councillors Pat Clubbe and Joan Mowl.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

Public Participation Session

Nothing further was discussed.

23/21 Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2021 are confirmed, approved and signed.

24/21 Matters Arising

CWG Press release as proposed by Councillor Anne Wignall

It was agreed that Anne would draft up some wording that she felt may be suitable to go with the photograph, noted above, taken at the arbour. She would then forward this to Councillors for approval before submitting it to Jo Butterworth, Town Clerk, for approval going forward.

Proposal to appoint John (Jack) Frost to an advisory capacity with the CWG

The CC advised Councillors that this proposal had now been formally agreed by both Ellesmere Town Council and Ellesmere Rural Parish Council and Jack had been so notified.

Drain problem at Cemetery Lodge

The CC had previously e-mailed Councillors with a copy of an e-mail which he had received from Jo Butterworth regarding the current situation in this matter. Jo advised that as soon as she had anything further to report she will contact us again.

25/21 Benches and arbour

As mentioned above, Councillors were able to see the three new benches and arbour in situ and very were impressed with the work undertaken by Mike Jones, blacksmith, who had made them and placed them in situ within the cemetery. The CC will write to Mike to thank him for all his efforts in the cemetery.

26/21 Possible future use of adjacent Shropshire Council land for grave space

Councillors unanimously agreed to defer this until a later date.

27/21 Request from Graeme Goode regarding memorial stone or tablet placement area within the cemetery

During the earlier cemetery visit the CC had advised Councillors that Graeme had contacted him to see if some form of memorial stone or tablet could be placed in the cemetery for someone who was not interred in the cemetery. Councillors felt that this was an appropriate request and suggested that some form of plaque or tablet in black, either granite or plastic with suitable lettering, could be attached to one of the pillars in the Memorial Garden area. It was agreed also that any such plaque or tablet should be no larger than nine inches x nine inches by ¼ of an inch. The CC will now contact Graeme again to appraise him of the situation and see if anything accrues.

28/21 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.

29/21 Cemetery Co-ordinator's Report

The CC advised Councillors that since our last meeting on 20th May there had been eight interments. Five were coffin interments (one new double, three new singles and one re-opening) and three were cremated remains interments, all into existing graves.

The CC advised that a lady called Jennifer Astley had contacted him to advise that she had kept a quarter of her father's cremated remains with her for some years. The other three quarters had been interred into a grave some years ago. She now wanted to know if her portion could also be placed with the rest of him in order to make him "whole again". This was agreed and no charge was made for this with Paul Sumner carrying out the interment. She was quite emotional about this and, in fact, subsequently sent me a donation of £50 towards the cemetery. This cheque was given to Jo Butterworth in order that it could be included within the CWG finances. Jo said that she would place this donation in a discrete area of the accounts.

Following a meeting previously held at the cemetery by some Councillors and the CC it had been decided as to where the new arbour and benches should be situated. Councillor Baker informed Mike Jones of the positions selected and all are now in position in the cemetery. It was noted that, while the bulk of the excess spoil had been removed from the top of the cemetery (this removal was paid for entirely by Paul Sumner), a small amount of spoil had appeared right in the corner at the top of the cemetery following this removal. It is not known who deposited this small amount The CC will keep an eye on the area going forward particularly as the arbour is situated close by.

Following the recent interment of Ken Drury, Jack Frost and the CC had a look around the cemetery and noticed that some of the maroon / purple coloured glass in the window at the

rear of the Chapel had been broken and was lying on the ground. It would seem that stones had been thrown at the glass as there were at least two separate areas of cracking in the glass. The CC had reported this to Jo Butterworth.

The CC thanked Councillor Dyke for kindly donating some fibre board for the interior of the cemetery notice board.

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

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|-----------------|------------------|
| Interments | £3,360.00 |
| Headstones / MV | £2,420.00 |
| <u>Total :</u> | <u>£5,780.00</u> |

Date of next scheduled meeting

Thursday 30th September 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in Ellesmere Town Hall.

End of meeting.