

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
AT ELLESMERE TOWN HALL

**Members Present:**

Chair :           Graham Dyke

Vice Chair :    Tim Hunter

Councillors :   John Baker, Pat Clubbe, Kay Egerton, Geoff Elner, Paul Goulbourne and  
Joan Mowl

**Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present this evening. Jack Frost was in attendance.

**16/22 Election of Chair for 2022 / 2023**

Councillor Goulbourne proposed that Councillor Dyke should be the Chair for the next two years. This was seconded by Councillor Elner with all in favour. With no other nominations being received Councillor Dyke was installed as Chair. Councillor Dyke expressed his thanks to Councillor Goulbourne for his dedicated service as Chair for the past three years with all Councillors and the Cemetery Co-ordinator being in full agreement with his sentiments.

**17/22 Election of Vice Chair for 2022 / 2023**

Councillor Elner proposed that Councillor Hunter should be the Vice Chair for the next two years. This was seconded by Councillor Mowl with all in favour. With no other nominations being received Councillor Hunter was installed as Vice Chair.

**Apologies Received**

Apologies had been received from Graham Hutchinson and Anne Wignall

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

No disclosures were made.

**Public Participation Session**

Nothing further was discussed.

**18/22 Minutes**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April required amending in respect of who was in attendance at this meeting. The Cemetery Co-ordinator will duly make an amendment in this regard and once this is done it was :

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 are confirmed, approved and signed.

**19/22 Matters Arising**

Tarmacking at entrance to cemetery

The CC advised Councillors that James Clarke had been in touch to say that he had been busy recently but now hopes to do the tarmacking mid to end June. It was noted that it would be prudent to check with Groundforce to ensure that they don't attend when the work is being carried out.

#### Water butts

Councillor Dyke advised that he had hoped to start installing the water butts and watering cans this week but Mark (the person who would be doing this) had, unfortunately, quite badly injured two of his fingers. Councillor Dyke advised that Mark thought he could do the work next week so we shall just have to wait and see if this occurs. In any event they will be placed in situ as soon as feasible.

#### Wheelie bins

The CC advised Councillors that he had been in contact with Shropshire Council and that they agreed to replace the four damaged wheelie bins at the Cemetery. This would probably take place in the next week or two. Councillors thought that when they are in situ they should have "Ellesmere Cemetery" signs on them. Councillor Dyke advised that he will get a price for eight such signs.

#### Proposed wildflower area

Councillors Dyke, Baker and Hunter advised that they had been to the cemetery to have a look at this possibility but after some reflection they felt that the proposed wildflower area at the bottom of the cemetery would not, in fact, be feasible. Councillor Baker said that it would take a great deal of work and would not be aesthetically pleasing for the majority of the year. It was felt that perhaps three or four nice blossoming trees could be planted in the lower area with a possible plaque to remember the people buried there. Councillor Dyke mentioned the possibility of a blossom tree or trees being planted in some of the barer areas of the main cemetery. It was agreed that Councillors would assess the situation again during their "annual visit" to the cemetery in July.

#### Jubilee oak tree

Councillor Mowl advised that the tree was now in situ at the top of the cemetery between the arbour and top fence. The CC advised that Jack Frost had now pruned the sapling in order that, hopefully, it would now grow upwards into a good tree. Jack said he would place a taller stake by the tree to enable and encourage this.

#### **20/22 Take up of the second tarmac path for new grave space**

The CC advised that he, Councillor Baker and Jack Frost had been to the cemetery to assess this possibility. They measured the width between graves going from the Mere end of the path upwards and assessed that it would only be feasible to use part of the path for new grave space. This would be approximately two thirds of the way up as the gap between graves narrows somewhat the further up the path you go. If the useable part of the path was taken up for new grave space then it would be very problematic from an access point of view (to the Memorial Garden area) to have a suitable pathway (also allowing wheelchair access) next to the fence at the top of the cemetery as there is no space to have a pathway between the graves for access. It would appear unlikely that the second tarmac path could be used effectively for new grave space. Councillors were also advised that there was some viable grave space between the arbour and the old wall of the cemetery although the number of possible new graves was uncertain at this point. Councillors briefly discussed the whole situation of new grave space within the cemetery and agreed to have an assessment again on their annual visit to the cemetery in July.

Regarding the possibility of an external location for a graveyard Councillor Dyke said he would speak to the Stokes family to see if they might be able to offer up some land for this purpose. Councillor Elner mentioned some existing land at Berwyn View owned by Shropshire Council and said he would look into the matter further. Councillor Egerton felt that there might be a need to go public at some stage to keep local people informed of the situation regarding the cemetery.

#### **21/22 Memorials Testing (update)**

The CC advised Councillors that he had spoken to Steve Jones, of Jones and Hughes Stonemasons, that afternoon. Steve explained that with the turnover of staff over the past year, and the ongoing training of new staff, it would not be possible for him to carry out any meaningful testing this year but he was confident that he would be able to do this next year.

### **22/22 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.

### **23/22 Cemetery Co-ordinator's Report**

The CC advised Councillors that since our last meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April there had been four interments. One was a coffin interment into an existing grave in the E Section. Three were cremated remains interments, one into a grave in the F Section and two new interments into the Memorial Garden extension area.

The CC also advised Councillors that no further graves had been required in the Q Section since the last one on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Jo Butterworth had agreed the purchase of eight new watering cans via Councillor Dyke. Four of these will replace the existing cans near the Lodge and the other four will be placed on hooks on the soil store behind the Chapel.

Groundforce had been asked to put additional topsoil into the soil store which they did.

The CC had relocated the "no dogs" sign onto the fence at the top of the cemetery from the gate where someone has placed it.

Income received by the CC for the 2022 / 2023 financial year to date was :

Interments	£1,215.00
Headstones / MV	£ 835.00

<u>Total :</u>	<u>£2,050.00</u>
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### **Date of next scheduled meeting**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July May at 7.00 p.m. in Ellesmere Town Hall.

(please note that this meeting will be preceded by Councillors' annual visit to the cemetery at 6.00 p.m.)

End of meeting.

