

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24th July 2025
at Ellesmere Town Hall.

Members Present:

Chair: P. Goulbourne

V. Chair: Apologies.

Councillors: A.Wignall, N.Proffitt, S.Jackson, J.Gargiulo, G.Elner, J.Howard, G.Hitchinson,
A Richardson.

Officers: Andy Chatting, (CCO).

CWG 07/25/01 To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Egerton for personal reasons. Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Goulbourne and seconded by Cllr Elner. Accepted unanimously by the other members of the CWG.

No apologies were forthcoming from Cllr Howard.

CWG 07/25/02 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Members are reminded that they are required to **leave** the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

No disclosures were made.

CWG 07/25/03 Grant Dispensations. In pursuance of the Localism Act 2011, s31 (4) to report on any dispensations requested/granted.

None requested.

CWG 07/25/04 Minutes. To read and confirm the minutes of the Cemetery Working Group Meeting held on Thursday 29th May 2025.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th May 2025 be signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Wignall and seconded by Cllr Richardson. Accepted unanimously by the other members of the CWG.

CWG 07/25/05 **Finance.**

(a) **CWG Payments.** [To note payments made during May and June 2025.]
Noted.

(b) **Quarterly report.** [To note.] **Noted.**

CWG 07/25/06 **Cemetery Report.** [To note.] **Noted.**

CWG/07/25/07 **Consideration of a possible location of a new Memorial Garden.**

Discussion took place in relation to where a new Memorial Garden should be located when the time came. The group felt that having toured the cemetery in May 2025, that the most obvious location would be the 'bottom' of the cemetery closest to the main gate where the short tarmacadam driveway ended at the old E Section. This section (previously supposed to contain the remains of 'paupers' but surveyed by CDS in 2024) was favoured because even if interments were revealed at coffin depth there were no memorials extant AND any footings dug to create a new Memorial Garden wall would not cause any soil disturbance except at a very shallow depth.

The CCO was asked to try to retrieve the plans for the existing Memorial Graden and its extension as a starting point to look at planning for the design and development of another area for created remains in the favoured area of the cemetery.

CWG/07/25/08 **Trimming of the 3 yew trees closest to Swan Hill main entrance. (see CCO report)**

Following information from the Town Clerk this matter was pended to await the results of the town tree survey which is scheduled for September 2025.

CWG/07/25/09 **Removal of the oak tree at the top entrance. (see CCO report)**

The members of the CWG requested that the oak tree be offered either to St Mary's Church and the Rev P. Hawkins or to The Gravel Hole within the rural area. The CCO was asked to give first refusal to St Mary's.

CWG 07/25/10 **Work parties especially post-Christmas and the clearance of wreaths.**

The members agreed that they would participate in helping to tidy the cemetery especially when the Christmas wreaths need collecting and that it would be for the CCO to email them to agree appropriate dates as and when.

CWG 07/25/11 **To consider whether the income raised from the Lodge rental should be altered. Please note this item will not be for consideration until the full Finance Cttee budget meeting of November 2025.**

The members were aware that this item was for the consideration of the Finance Committee in due course but instructed the CCO to make it clear to the TC that they would like the matter of the lodge rent to be considered in November.

CMG 07/25/12 **To consider ways of making the chapel a greater asset.**

Following discussions the CCO was asked to make contact with The Rev Hawkins and with Mrs Anne Harris to look to think of ways for expanding peoples' awareness of the chapel. The CCO was also asked to think about advertising the chapel's existence more widely as a cemetery asset and income stream.

CWG 07/25/13 **Standing item on the agenda relating to the acquisition of new land.** To discuss.

The CCO reported that as the CWG were setting aside money for any future cemetery and that recent surveys had extended the longevity of the cemetery as it is; it might be wise to remove this standing item from the agenda until a time when sufficient funds had been accrued and/or the planned extension to the cemetery was filling up. The CWG discussed this idea, but it was resolved to leave this point as a standing item going forward.

CWG 07/25/14 **Future Agenda Items.** To receive any items to be considered for a future agenda.

No agenda items were submitted for the next meeting.

CWG 00/25/15 Next **Meeting.** Thursday 25th September 2025, at 7:00 pm at Ellesmere Town Hall. To note.

The meeting concluded at 7:35 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....