

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th March 2026
at Ellesmere Town Hall.

Members Present:

Chair: P. Goulbourne

V. Chair: K. Egerton

Councillors: N. Proffitt, J.Howard, G.Hutchinson, A Richardson.

Officers: Andy Chatting, (CCO).

CWG 03/26/01 To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Elner (leave)

Cllr Jackson (leave)

Cllr Gargiulo (sickness)

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Goulbourne and seconded by Cllr Howard.

Accepted unanimously by the other members of the CWG.

CWG 03/26/02 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 03/26/03 Grant Dispensations. In pursuance of the Localism Act 2011, s31 (4) to report on any dispensations requested/granted.

None requested.

CWG 03/26/04 Minutes. To read and confirm the minutes of the Cemetery Working Group Meeting held on 29th January 2026.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2026 be signed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr. Hutchinson. Accepted unanimously by the other members of the CWG.

CWG 03/26/05 **Finance.**

(a) CWG Payments. To note payments made during January and February 2026.

These items were noted.

CWG/03/26/06 **Cemetery Report.**

The contents were noted.

CWG 03/26/07 **The Exell +Woosnam quotes (for discussion)**

The CWG members had seen all 3 quotes from the companies that were approached. The CCO explained that in relation to the Edgerton and Wrights quotes these had been submitted based on a 'full restoration' of the 4 memorials but that the Jones + Hughes quote was based on making the memorials safe and bringing them up to a certain standard rather than making them look new. Given the cost associated with full restoration and the on-going commitment to keep these memorials in reasonable order the members of the CWG asked that the CCO re-visit this issue with a view to:

- Asking Edgerton and Wrights to aim at making the memorials safe and presentable as per the Jones + Hughes model and,
- Asking Jones + Hughes to quote for re-lettering in addition to their first proposal.

Essentially this means asking Jones + Hughes to look at re-lettering and add that to their quote and asking the two other companies to bring their 'full restoration' plans in-line with the Jones + Hughes cheaper version.

The CCO was asked to re-draft a tendering template to meet these decisions.

CWG /03/26/08 **CWG members to visit other nearby cemeteries to look at Memorial Garden Options.**

Before the meeting:

Cllr Wignall had sent the CWG images of Welshampton Church's ashes plots.

Cllr Jackson had done the same as regards Oswestry Cemetery.

Cllr Richardson provided images in relation to St. Martins.

The CCO had included images of both Welsh Frankton and Wem in his CCO report (above).

Following discussion, it was agreed by the members that the scheme should emulate the Oswestry Cemetery design as far as possible; not therefore requiring a brick wall with piers and fencing above, but using a more simplified brick or stone edged gravelled area and replicating the spacings already in use at Swan Hill in the Memorial Garden (extension section).

CWG 03/26/09 **To consider the future of the Leylandii hedge at the bottom of the cemetery before the area is developed for new burial/internments.**

Given that the hedge needs regular maintenance and that there is an on-going cost implication around this AND given that its presence has a fairly significant impact on future internment space [both for burial and for ashes]; there was overwhelming support for the idea of removing the hedge **before** the new Memorial Graden is created and burials begin.

The removal of the hedge was proposed by Cllr Edgerton and seconded by Cllr Hutchinson. All other members present agreed with this proposal.

The CCO was asked to liaise with the TC as regards this proposal in relation to taking into consideration any potential opinion for Shropshire Council, local residents and neighbours of the cemetery.

CWG 03/26/10 **Standing item on the agenda relating to the acquisition of new land.**

Noted with no further progress.

CWG 03/26/11 **Future Agenda Items.**

1. The removal of the Leylandii hedge.
2. The revised plans to restore the Exell + Woosnam plots.

CWG 03/26/12 **Next Meeting.** Thursday 28th May 2026, at 7:00 pm at Ellesmere Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19:30hours.

Chair.....

Date.....