

Minutes of a Cemetery Committee Meeting held in the Community Centre at 6.45 pm on Thursday 17 February 2022

Present: Councillors N Weston (Chair), Sneddon and Pudney. Also in attendance Phil Dyer (PD) (Cemetery Administrator) for some of the meeting, Jane McClintock (JMCC) in an advisory capacity and Caroline Emeny (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

- 1 **The Chair welcomed** everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for Absence** - There were no absences.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and no requests for dispensations and Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct.
- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 22 September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 5 **To note any matters arising**
There were no outstanding matters not on the agenda.
- 6 **To review /approve the options for low level fencing around the GoR and other cemetery improvements**
(i) Some form of demarcation was discussed to delineate the GoR and the rest of the cemetery. A possible solution could be a white gravel filled border. It would require containing within some form of appliance to keep the gravel intact. There is room to accommodate this. PD will pace it out and report back. The unconsecrated area and hedges have been cut back and the area looks much improved.
Action: P Dyer to look into gravel border
- 7 **To review recent discussions re overcrowding in the GoR and any proposed actions to limit capacity**
There were 2 issues pending: -
 - (i) PD met with the lady who had complained about her parents' plot in the GoR being overcrowded explaining that it was poorly designed when it was first opened up. Other than an exhumation of their ashes, there was little we could do. However rules on this are very strict and it would not be allowed. The plan has now been amended to include extra room in the GoR decreasing the number of rows from 6 to 4 by putting in some blank rows that will deliberately be left empty. There is now 1 x double row and 2 x single rows.
 - (ii) Another issue that came to light last year was the reservation of 2 plots with no paperwork trail. PD met with the relevant people and their plots have been reallocated to different plots within the cemetery.
- 8 **To review the charging structure**
The Clerk produced a comparison chart. On review it was agreed to leave the charges as is for the immediate future. The clerk queried whether plots should be reserved for 100 years or 99 years.
Action: Clerk to investigate 99 / 100 year timescale
- 9 **Cemetery Administration** – There were no other matters to note.
- 10 **Date of next meeting – Thursday 14 July at 6.45 pm**

The meeting closed at 1910 hours.