



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD BY ON 6th JANUARY 2022

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Campbell(Chairman); A. Barton J. Clifford; R. Smith;
T. Walton; S. Parker
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs H. Smith; A. Woollard In the absence of the Chairman the Chair was taken by Cllr Campbell
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were two members of the public present
Tony and Phil Jones attended to speak about the Cemetery Contract and the Parish Council's Climate Strategy Action Plan.

They reported that they had moved over to using electric strimmers, chainsaws and hedgecutters but could not change the large mowers to battery operated at the present time as it was not feasibly possible financially to do this at the present time as they would need several batteries to manage this. They confirmed that they do not use weedkiller or pesticides.

Cllr Walton felt that the Parish Council should be looking at a plan for developing biodiversity and whether any areas could be left uncut. Mr Jones stated that they hedges need to be cut as there is limited space.

It was agreed that the Cemetery is looking in a very good condition. The graves in the bottom part of the Cemetery had been tidied up.

The issue of the tubs by the Chapel were discussed and it was asked whether these were necessary. If so, it was agreed to look at what could be planted in them.

It was agreed to walk round the Cemetery prior to the next meeting to look at the tubs and suggest areas that could be left uncut and where small trees such as hawthorn or field maple could be planted.

Tony Jones stated that they always take the spoil away when graves are dug and it was agreed that this should be a new ruling as part of the Climate Strategy. The Clerk will write to all the undertakers requesting this.
- 5. Actions:** See Appendix to the Minutes
- 6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held 1st November 2021 were taken as read and was signed as being a true record.
- 7. Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - a. Lodge Maintenance:**
 - Parking area by Lodge: The work to complete the parking areas will be carried out when the weather permits.
 - Replacement windows: It was agreed to obtain quotations for the work.

- b. **Chapel and Lodge roof:** Continue to monitor
- c. **Hobbs Memorial:** Monitor regularly to see if any repairs are required
- d. **War Memorial:** Regularly monitor the condition of the memorial.
- e. **Trees:** Quotations to be obtained for a tree survey to be carried out.
- f. **Hedges:** Money will be built up in the budget to enable the Committee to look at this again at a later date.
- g. **Management of the Cemetery – work to flower beds:**
The work to the flower beds had been completed and the three trees had been planted.
- h. **Survey of the top field:** The top field had been let out from 1st January 2022 at an annual rental of £400. The field will be topped, if necessary, prior to the survey taking place.
- i. **Signs on the Cemetery gates:** The two signs on the gate had been repainted.
- j. **Broken railing by the gates:** It was reported that there is a broken railing by the gates. Clerk pursuing this with Arthur Cole and also looking at the stays for the gates.
- k. **Damage to the Palmer grave:** James Long had completed the work. The parishioner had been informed that this is a one off repair.

8. Items for discussion:

- a. **Climate Strategy Action Plan – SMART objectives:** As discussed above the Committee will draw up a plan for developing biodiversity and annotate areas for this.

9. Health and Safety Issues:

- **Safety of headstones:** Next check to be carried out in the Spring.

10. Headstones:

James Long	-	Additional inscription	Mavis Christine Hewin
James Long	-	Tablet for cremated remains	June and Walter Edwards
Mr Sumner	-	Tablet for cremated remains	John Sumner

11. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. It was reported that there are a lot of dead flies in the Chapel. The Groundsman will deal with this.
- b. It was reported that there are weeds in the pavement by the Chapel door.
- c. It was reported that there is an issue with grave KG7. The Committee will look at this.
- d. It was reported that the fencing in the top field had been cut again in three places. The police are aware of this issue.
- e. It was reported that there is a hole in one of the graves in the top part of the cemetery near the water tap.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 7th March 2022. There will be a walkround prior to the meeting.

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm