

ST DENNIS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Cemetery Meeting held Online on
Tuesday the 9th March 2021 at 8.05pm

Present: Cllr Mrs T Edmunds (Chairman), Cllr Kelsey (Vice Chair), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Lodomez, Cllr Mr N Edmunds, Cllr Jones, Cllr Sinnott.

In Attendance: Lynn Clarke Parish Clerk.

C42/20 – Apologies

Cllr Burnett. – Apologies accepted.

C43/20 – Declarations of Interest

None

C44/20 – Public Participation

Cllr Clarke has received a telephone call from a member of the public regarding the positioning of a memorial bench. Cllr Clarke has advised that the positioning of the bench will be investigated after the fencing has been installed. The clerk has received complaints about youngsters in the Cemetery playing loud music, a member of the public asked them to leave. The clerk will review the CCTV to see if the youngsters can be identified and write a letter to the parents if this is the case. Cllr Clarke has received a complaint about a plastic surround being removed from a plot within the Cemetery. This is on the agenda for discussion at this evening's meeting.

C45/20 – To adopt the minutes of the cemetery meeting held on the 10th November 2020.

Approved – proposed by Cllr Clarke seconded by Cllr Kelsey. Cllr Sinnott and Cllr Jones abstained as not present at the meeting, all others in favour.

C46/20 – Matters arising from the last meeting.

The mains water and sewerage plan's have not been ordered as awaiting confirmation on land to be purchased.

Prices for the poppies have not yet been sought.

Other matters are on the agenda.

C47/20 – To discuss how to update gaps in the burial records with next of kin details.

Due to recent instances where the Parish Council have been unable to contact relatives as the records held are old or inaccurate a way forward is needed to ensure the records in the office are up to date.

Action – To place a notice in various areas inviting members of the public to come forward and check records and provide up to date contact information. Cllr Mrs T Edmunds will liaise with the clerk to arrange specific times and dates where members of the public can meet with a Parish Council representative in the Cemetery.

C48/20 – To discuss and agree the choices of bench and installation costs.

Action – Clerk to resend all bench designs and a decision to be made via email for the memorial bench application pack.

C49/20 – To agree the costs to be forwarded to bench applicants.

This was discussed at length and it was **Resolved** – For the Parish Council to provide the benches including installation. To offer members of the public the opportunity to have memorial plaques installed on the benches up to a 3 plaques per bench. These can be applied for through the Parish Council and the applicant will cover the cost of the plaque.

C50/20 – To agree the new bench application form.

Tabled – Clerk to redesign for memorial plaques.

C51/20 – Update on the fencing off the public footpath within the Cemetery.

The clerk informed that a start date has not yet been provided for the work. The order has been authorised and several start dates have been provided but not been met. Another contractor has been used for the tree removal due to the work needing to be completed before the 1st March.

Action – Clerk to contact the contractor and request that the work be started before Friday the 19th March or the order will be withdrawn. Old quotations will be reviewed alongside new quotations for the work. Proposed by Cllr Mr N Edmunds, seconded by Cllr Kelsey all in favour.

C52/20 – To agree the purchase of grass seed for the Cemetery.

Resolved – To purchase two bags of grass seed. Proposed by Cllr Mr N Edmunds seconded by Cllr Lodomez all in favour.

C53/20 – To agree the implementation of the banning of plastic from the Cemetery.

It was resolved – to implement the decision made on February last year (min ref C63/19) and to substantially to reduce the use of plastic within the cemetery grounds to help combat climate change and plastic pollution within the soil. Some exceptions have been made where it is not possible to completely eradicate plastic use. Notices to be placed on the gates and in the noticeboard advising of this decision, requesting that all plastic fencing and plastic tributes be removed. Proposed by Cllr Mr N Edmunds seconded by Cllr Kelsey all in favour.

Action – The Clerk to review the regulations and amend as necessary.

C54/20 – To agree the cost of new watering jugs for the Cemetery.

It was resolved – to purchase four metal watering cans from Wilko for the cemetery and stamp them with the Parish Council property stamp. Proposed by Cllr Kelsey seconded by Cllr Clarke all in favour.

C55/20 – To discuss a request form a member of the public to place stone edging around a burial plot.

This was discussed at length due to unauthorised edging already within the area. It was **Resolved** to deny the request as this has been designated as a lawned area within the Cemetery. **Action** – Clerk to contact owners of other plots and request removal of all edgings within these sections. Proposed by Cllr Mr N Edmunds seconded by Cllr Mrs T Edmunds all in favour.

C56/20 – To review the Cemetery Report dated the 10/12/2020 and to address any actions required.

The installation of the new fence: Prior to the installation it would be advantageous for a Cllr to meet with the contractor and walk through exactly where the fencing is to be installed. – **Tabled.**

The granite style that leads to the footpath adjacent to the Cemetery report received from a staff member that a lady slipped on the granite. **Action** – To be reported to Cornwall Council and ask to consider the installation of a handrail.

The moss on the paths has not yet been addressed. **Action** – Clerk to remind staff to carry out the work.

Walking up the side of Section A there is an old flowerbed that could possibly be reinstated, and it looks as though there may possibly have been another in the top corner. **Deferred** – To be revisited at a later date.

The condition of the graves in the older section has vastly improved in the last few years where the casuals have been removing the brambles. There is a long way to go, and this is an ongoing issue. – **Noted.**

The top boundary from Section A to the Garden of Rest is in need of cutting back and tidying up. There is an encroachment of growth onto one of the reserved plots in section B. The ivy growing from the walls should be removed as not to compromise the integrity of the wall.

Action – Work to be addressed in conjunction with the clearance at Hendra Prazey.

There is a potential within section H. The first two headstones on the third row down appear to have been set to far back and are out of line with section G. This is going to throw out the whole of the third row down and encroach on the space within the second row. **Action** –

The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the sexton to discuss.

C57/20 Update on the Cemetery Extension

Information received from the Community Link Officer to say that all possible avenues for negotiation must be exhausted prior to the Compulsory Purchase Route. The Clerk has sent a letter to Tregothnan Estate but is awaiting a reply. Sending a letter from the Parish Council Solicitor was discussed but not agreed as the additional cost for this service would in these circumstances not make a difference to the situation.

Action – Clerk to seek advice from Cornwall Association of local Councils and the Institute of Cremation and Cemetery Management, and to discuss the matter further with the Community Link Officer. It was noted that Cllrs would uphold the decision to obtain a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land if required.

C58/20 – Any other matters.

None

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw

Cllr Mrs T Edmunds reminded before this section of the meeting can start, “I am required to remind you all that this is a confidential meeting and is not to be discussed with anyone out of this meeting. I also need your confirmation that no-one else in your household is in the room or can overhear the conversations that are to take place during this meeting. The clerk will record your response individually”.

Cllr Clarke, Cllr Jones, Cllr Sinnot, Cllr Lodomez, Cllr Kelsey, Cllr Mr N Edmunds, Cllr Mrs T Edmunds, and the clerk all informed that they were in an area that could not be overheard by other members of the household.

C59/20 – Confidential Items.

New information discovered in the old burial records.

The clerk gave an update on advice from the ICCM.

Possible relatives identified.

Any other urgent and relevant confidential item, for information, that the Chairman considers appropriate.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.30 pm

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman of the Cemetery Committee