

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, MAIN HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON TUESDAY 13th. JULY 2021.

ATTENDANCE Councillors - M Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, H.R. Jennings, Mrs. L.A. Lovatt, Mrs. L.M. Salt and G.W. Salt

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre, two members of the public.

- 1 **APOLOGIES** - There were no apologies.
- 2 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Mr. Salt, proposed by Councillor Bowen and was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. All agreed so Councillor Mr. Salt was duly elected for the next two years, so he continued to chair the meeting.
- 3 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Mrs. Lovatt, proposed by Councillor Bowen and was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Salt. All agreed so Councillor Mrs. Lovatt was duly elected for the next two years.
- 4 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23rd. FEBRUARY 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
- 5 **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - There were no matters raised.
- 6 **CORRESPONDENCE:** -
 - a. Resident letter with regards to the state of the Asylum Burial Ground. The Clerk reported that she had responded informing them of the future program of works to be scheduled to make improvements.
- 7 **PLAN OF BURIAL PLOTS/CHECKING MEMORIALS** - The Clerk reported that she had met with Basil Heath and Councillor Jennings, and he asked for a full layout plan of the cemetery plots with denoted the memorials that have been applied for. As we noticed that there is a wooden cross which is not fixed and has not been given permission to be erected. Therefore, Basil will check all plots and memorials that they are safe and have had permission. To establish for health & safety that they are fixed and safe and I will write to those who have no permission like this one. Councillor Bowen stated he is quite happy to check Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery. The Clerk stated that Basil has stated he will do the same for this one once the plan has been updated.
- 8 **EXTENSION WORKS REQUIRED TO THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE - ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY** - The Clerk reported that we need create a further row as the Garden of Remembrance plots are down to the last 6. Basil Heath advised that a further row of slabs to back onto the current row would be the best idea. He has supplied a quote to do these works to dig & level the ground and lay 32 new slabs 2-foot x 2-foot to create the row and he has quoted £775. The Clerk stated that further quote could be obtained but the works do need to be completed sooner rather than later. Councillor Ahmad proposed to get Basil to do the works, this was seconded by Councillor Jennings and all members agreed.

9 SPONSOR A TREE FOR CREMATED REMAINS INTERMENT - ST. EDWARD'S

LAWN CEMETERY - The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from a resident for her husband's cremated remains to be buried under a tree as that was his wish. The Clerk showed photographs of the new bench that has been installed and suggested a tree on the other side of the bench to match an existing memorial tree and maybe plant the same variety of tree as the resident did not specify the type of tree. Charges will be the same as a plot. Councillor Bowen stated an ornamental tree would be more in keeping. Also, a request for a memorial bench in memory of a resident's son who is buried in the cemetery. The Clerk explained that the Councils looking to use recycled plastic benches which he was more than happy to have and was happy the cost but wanted it sited near to the tree at the end of the Row of Plots in the Garden of remembrance. Councillor Bowen proposed both and these were seconded by Councillor Mrs. Salt.

10 RESERVATION OF PLOT REQUEST - ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY - The

Clerk reported that she had a request from Councillor Ahmad for a non-consecrated part of the cemetery for other religions/non-religious. The Clerk has checked, and most of the cemetery is consecration and once done is recorded and it has been checked with the Diocese and a plan confirms the area that was done. Once this has been recorded which is what the Council agreed to when the cemetery was first created now stands and cannot be changed. The Clerk reported that she had checked with Carmountside in Stoke-on-Trent who have two cemeteries in Tunstall & Fenton that accommodate Muslims with a quick burial as the plots are already dug and where they have resources perform the burial within 24 hours. The Clerk also asked other Parishes for advice and reported that either they are in a similar situation with the whole of the cemetery being consecrated or they made a deliberate decision to leave a section not consecrated to accommodate anyone who asks. Councillor Ahmad asked what is the size of the land that is owned by the Council. The Clerk reported 4.2 acres. Councillor Bowen stated that we have refused reservations and will upset other residents if we now go back on this. He stated as far as he is concerned anyone in death is equal as there is equality in death, any resident can be buried in the cemetery and they are allocated the next available plot. Councillor Ahmad stated he is asking for an area allocated for Muslims in the cemetery. Not to reserve plots and he went on to explain that he helped with securing the land for the cemetery and he feels that as there is 4.2 acres is ample to secure an area separate and he would buy the area. Councillor Bowen stated that the land cannot be sold on to individuals and as a member of the Council it would not be ethical. If we provide an area for a single religion, we will then have to provide many different areas to all different religions when it has been stated that everyone has an equal right to be buried in the cemetery. Councillor Ahmad stated he would donate. Councillor Bowen stated that at least 95% of the burials are for not committed Christians but are simply members of the community and they are more than welcome to be buried. Councillor Ahmad asked for this to be an agenda item on Full Council. Councillor Bowen proposed that we do not reserve any plots, and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Salt. Councillor Bowen stated that this is our cemetery and no matter what other authorities allow in their cemetery we make our own rules. Councillor Mrs. Salt asked for clarification that there is an area of non-consecrated up the side of cemetery and plots are available for non-religious or other religions. The Clerk also reported that she had received another application for a plot reservation from a resident to acquire a plot opposite to his wife for his daughter and he has been told this is not allowed.

11 ANY WORKS REQUIRED - ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY - The Clerk

reported that there are a few benches which need repair/replacing as the wooden arm is rotten. A quote for some replacements will be put forward to full Council. She also brought up that the topograph which has a time capsule enclosed and there is nothing stating this. Councillor Mrs. Salt proposed a plaque stating this. A complaint about the overgrown ivy.

- 12 **ANY WORKS REQUIRED - ASYLUM BURIAL GROUND** - Councillor Jennings explained the history of the Burial Ground and that 1389 people were buried but not in named graves. The Clerk explained that a meeting had taken place with Steve Massey the Arboricultural Officer from SMDC to advise on the works that could be done under the Tree Preservation Order and will give written advice. Councillor Bowen mentioned a large block of stone at the Craft Centre which as part of the works will be removed which could be used as a larger monument at the burial ground and engraved. The Clerk explained that it has been agreed to re-letter the existing stone which has yet to be done as it had not been decided if it was going to be re-sited in the middle of the roundabout but there is an old tree stump in it. The Clerk explained that Charles Piggott had looked, and the tree stump is rotten so needs to be removed rather than mount the stone on it. The Clerk had a quote of £200 + VAT to remove the stump and maybe place the new bigger stone on there. Councillor Bowen proposed getting the stump removed and this was seconded by Councillor Jennings.
- 13 **ANY WORKS REQUIRED - CHEDDLETON LAWN CEMETERY** – Councillor Bowen reported that it is in good order but will require the hedge cutting.
- 14 **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**
Non-Consecrated area of St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery.

Chairman
12th. October 2021.