



MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S BURIAL BOARD MEETING HELD AT STOW YOUTH CENTRE, FOSSEWAY, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 1DW ON WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY 2024 AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT: Councillors: A Tighe, J Davies, J Scarsbrook & M Stracey, & V Davies.

Also in attendance: Mrs C Evans, Clerk/RFO of the Council, Rev Karen Wellman & Mr Graham Golby

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the Agenda as the meeting progressed.

3. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED for the Chairman to sign the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. **Motion carried.**

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC*

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

6. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Clerk reported that the budget for the burial board had been finalised subject to the full council's agreement.

7. ST EDWARD'S CHURCHYARD

i) ANY ISSUES THAT MEMBERS WISH TO REPORT.

No issues were reported.

Cllr Merlyn Stracey arrived at 10.35 am.

ii) TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE HARD STANDING AREA OUTSIDE THE NORTH DOOR.

Rev Karen Wellman explained that two plans had been submitted to the diocese regarding the area outside the north door. Option A included a smaller paved area with a yew tree hedge, which was designed by the architects and Option B is a larger paved area with no hedge.

The Reverend explained the logic behind both drawings and that the diocese would require a letter of support from Council.

iii) TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUPPORT OPTION A OR B

Members discussed the practicalities of both options and pointed out that a hedge would block the light of Stow Lodge and could encroach on their boundary wall.

Members questioned what boundary would be between the paved area and the ashes plots. Karen explained that a bench or similar would be added later to provide a boundary. **RESOLVED** to support option B and for the Clerk to draft a letter of support. **Motion carried.**

iv) **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CLOSURE OF CHURCH WALK.**

The Clerk reported that the faculty for the wall repairs had been amended to reflect the change in the treatment of the trees. The Secretary of State has refused the extension to the street closure however Gloucestershire County Council Streetworks have provided a work around that will grant a 12-month extension for £875.00 which is the same price as the extension from the Secretary of State.

8. **CEMETERIES**

i) **ANY ISSUES THAT MEMBERS WISH TO REPORT.**

A member requested that the area at the bottom of the cemetery be assessed as she has received photographs of the area looking a mess from members of public.

The section of land in question is part of the allotments.

A member wished to address dogs in the cemetery and the signage currently in situ. It was suggested that new signs were installed discouraging dogs fouling the cemetery and being allowed to roam freely.

A member wished to arrange a visit to the cemetery to do an early spring tidy up.

Members agreed to meet at the cemetery on 30th January 2024 at 11.30 am to review all the issues reported.

ii) **TO DISCUSS AN UNAUTHORISED MEMORIAL PLAQUE THAT HAS BEEN PLACED ON A PLOT IN THE MILLENNIUM CEMETERY.**

RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact the owners of the plot requesting that they rectify the memorial. **Motion carried.**

9. **TO DECIDE WHETHER TO AMEND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CEMETERY TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHERE JOINT HEAD STONES CAN BE PLACED.**

Members discussed the positioning of joint upright headstones being placed in the middle of two plots. They discussed the need for rows to remain uniform and not create confusion for grave diggers.

RESOLVED that clerk should change the rules to reflect that headstones should be placed central to the individual plot and not be placed central to two plots. **Motion carried.**

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 27th March 2024 at 10.30 am.

11. **MEETING CLOSED** – 11.35 am.