

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr. Clifford (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Goodchild and Fairweather.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Cook

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

24/16: Issues from Inspections of Burial Grounds:

a) Golford Cemetery:

Cllr. Clifford reported that he made contact with local schools inviting anyone who would like play the organ are more than welcome, so that it gets used. There are paths in certain areas that need attention. Cllr. Clifford has offered to meet with the contractor that has completed previous work at the cemetery to obtain quotes.

A quote from Marshall Heating has been obtained regarding replacement of the electric heaters. The work listed was to disconnect and remove the existing heaters and install 4 x 900 watt electric heaters, with timers in the main building and 1 x 600 watt heater with timer in the office. The total amounted to £1,880 including VAT. Cllr. Clifford proposed to approve the quote if there are sufficient funds in the budget. This was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

A request had been received by a Parishioner to transfer a deed for exclusive rights of a burial plot to another family member. A discussion was had and the Committee agreed for the transfer of the deed to go ahead.

b) St. Dunstan's Churchyard:

Due to several complaints from Parishioners Cllr. Clifford and the Clerk met with the contractor doing the tree surgery in the churchyard. The concerns were resolved so remaining work will now be rescheduled when the bird nesting season has finished.

c) Sissinghurst Cemetery:

Cllr Fairweather reported the Cemetery was all clean and tidy. The tree report had been completed and Parishioners that neighbour the Cemetery had been spoken to with regards to the report. Cllr. Fairweather and Cllr. Clifford have agreed to meet with these Parishioners. A discussion was had around clarifying what trees are in the conservation area, as permission would be required from TWBC before any work could be completed.

Cllr. Clifford proposed subject to a reasonable quote being received that trees which have been identified as needing immediate attention should be dealt with. This was seconded Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

d) Cranbrook & Sissinghurst War Memorials:

Cllr. Clifford reported that a Parishioner was concerned the Howitzer was rusting, this will be reviewed in the summer.

25/16: Issues from Inspection of Properties:

a) Angley Cottage:

Cllr. Clifford reported that he has completed a recent inspection at the property all is in good order with only a few minor repairs, which have been completed.

b) Vestry Hall:

Cllr. Clifford reported a quote had been received from Hurstway for the following work on the entrances to the Vestry Hall -

Back entrance - Laying protective coverings, make good light imperfections to the walls & ceilings, apply two coats of standard trade matt emulsion paint to the pipework, ceilings and walls, rub down all previously painted joinery and apply one coat of undercoat and one coat of gloss to match the existing. Total £2,535 + VAT. Front Entrance – Lay protective coverings, erect access equipment where required, remove lining paper from the masonry walls, make good light imperfections to the lime plaster, apply zinsser grade 1 traditional and historic building paint to the walls and ceilings, rub down all previously painted joinery, apply one coat of undercoat and one coat of gloss to match existing. Total £4,890 + VAT. Cllr. Bunyan would like clarification if the work to the back entrance goes up to the double doors and if the zinsser paint is suitable to go on to the lime plaster. It was also agreed to obtain another quote as a comparison. This can then be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Cllr. Clifford reported that the side fire exit door of the Vestry Hall is suffering from rot. It was agreed to obtain quotes from various joiners to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

c) Vestry Hall Cottage:

Cllr. Clifford reported that work that the Parish Council had agreed to complete has recently finished. The tenants are in the process completing the internal decoration as per their tenancy agreement. Cllr. Clifford has asked for a letter to be sent to the tenants arranging a suitable date and time for the next inspection of the Cottage. Cllr. Clifford and Cllr. Bunyan to attend. The wire safety box that surrounds the vapour outlet pipe needs to be replaced due to it being worn and rusted. Clerks will look to purchase a new surround.

d) Information Centre:

No issues were raised.

26/16: Noticeboards and Shelters:

Cllr. Goodchild reported the noticeboard outside the Weald Information Centre has been repaired and there is no longer a damp issue. A discussion was had around the bus shelter on Quaker Lane and the recent damage caused. A quote has been obtained, however it was deferred to the next meeting.

27/16: Benches & Cycle Racks:

There were no issues raised.

28/16: Red Telephone Kiosks:

Cllr. Fairweather reported that moving the telephone kiosk from Swifts View to Sissinghurst was logistically very difficult. This was due to the type of vehicle it would have required and stress testing the kiosk would have to undertake once moved. CIB were keen to decorate the kiosks, it was decided to approach CIB to discuss further.

29/16: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fairweather reported that an old fashioned Sissinghurst village sign has been stolen from its location near the Sissinghurst Cricket field. It was agreed the Clerks would report the theft to the Police.