

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2017**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Goodchild

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.

18/16: Issues from Inspections of Burial Grounds:

a) Golford Cemetery:

The Chairman advised Members that some repair work to the tarmac paths had been undertaken for health and safety reasons. He believed that further work was necessary, and would be meeting with the contractor to arrange for estimates.

Cllr. Clifford had given permission for a double memorial in the cemetery and tabled the design, Members agreed to endorse his decision.

A concern regarding the condition of the organ in the Chapel had been raised, Cllr. Clifford had arranged for a musician to attend and give his opinion, as to whether any repairs were necessary.

b) St. Dunstan's Churchyard:

Cllr. Clifford reported that the tree work that had been previously agreed would be undertaken next month, Cranbrook School and the Church office had been informed.

A complaint had been received from a parishioner regarding several loose slabs on the path leading to the south door of the church. The Parish Warden had dealt with the issue.

c) Sissinghurst Cemetery:

Cllr. Fairweather stated that the Cemetery is in good order, very tidy and the hedges well shaped, although there were an abundance of leaves which can get slippery when wet. The Clerk agreed to contact the contractors and request the leaves are swept up and taken away. Cllr. Clifford informed Members that he would be meeting with Chris Masters – Discover trees on Monday 23rd January when a survey of all the trees in the Cemetery would be undertaken. He also reported that the Parish Warden had been liaising with South East Water in reference to the installation of a new water meter as the original one had been built over by the developers of the old school site.

d) Cranbrook & Sissinghurst War Memorials:

The Chairman raised concerns that the engraved names on the Sissinghurst War Memorial were wearing away and no other permanent record of the names existed. Members discussed the possibility of a brass plaque, in the church, with all the names. Cllr. Fairweather offered to approach the Friends Of Sissinghurst Church to see if they would be prepared to commission one.

19/16: Issues from Inspection of Properties:

a) Angley Cottage:

There were no issues to raise.

b) Vestry Hall:

The Chairman stated that main stairwell was looking tired and shabby and required re-decoration and suggested that we should get estimates for decorating both the front and rear entrance areas in readiness for the next meeting. This was agreed.

A quote of £115 + VAT to repair a leak in the ladies toilet ceiling and a further £75 + VAT to repair the water damage caused, had been received. It was proposed by Cllr. Bunyan, seconded by Cllr. Clifford and agreed to accept the quote. The Clerk advised Members that it had been necessary to call a plumber that morning to repair a leak under the sink in the kitchen.

Cllr. Clifford informed the Committee that it had been agreed to allow Cranbrook in Bloom to use the Vestry Hall on Sunday 28th May and Monday 29th May (a bank holiday) in consultation with the caretakers, for the Chelsea fringe event. Members agreed that the fees could be waived.

c) Vestry Hall Cottage:

Cllr. Clifford referred to the works that had already been agreed and asked the Clerk to get a schedule of works and estimated completion date from Hurstway. The Clerk advised the Committee that the tenants were in the process of the decorating the cottage.

d) Information Centre:

There were no issues raised.

20/16: Noticeboards and Shelters:

There were no issues raised.

21/16: Benches & Cycle Racks:

There were no issues raised.

22/16: Red Telephone Kiosks:

Cllr. Fairweather proposed that the recently acquired red telephone box at Swifts View, Cranbrook be moved to Sissinghurst with the aim of using it to house a defibrillator, subject to the costs associated with relocating it being approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. The Clerk offered to look into the logistics of moving it and also to find someone prepared to paint the two red boxes we now own. The Chairman also asked her to obtain estimates to replace the glass in the vandalised box at Bakers Cross.

23/16: Items for Information:

No items were raised.

