

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2018**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Hall & Holmes

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.

25/17: Golford Cemetery:

Cllr. Clifford advised there were no issues to report and that the Cemetery was in a good condition.

26/17: St. Dunstan's Churchyard:

Safety Handrail:

Two quotes for a metal handrail had been received. A parishioner had offered a £1,000 contribution towards the project. After a full discussion and looking at both quotes in depth, Cllr. Clifford proposed that the quote of £3,375 from Cranbrook Iron was accepted subject to receipt of drawings and approval of the finished design, this was seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed. The Clerk would arrange for Cllr. Cook to meet with the contractor on site to discuss and approve the design. We are still awaiting confirmation from the planning department as to what permission, if any is required. The Church Warden has offered his services to help with applying for the required faculty from the Diocese.

The Clerk also reported a concern raised by a parishioner regarding some loose slabs on one of the paths, it was agreed that the Parish Warden be asked to look at suitable solutions to rectify this.

27/17: Sissinghurst Cemetery:

Cllr. Fairweather reported that he had received several comments from local residents thanking the Parish Council for undertaking the recent tree surgery in the Cemetery. There were no other issues to report.

28/17: Cranbrook & Sissinghurst War Memorials:

Cllr. Fairweather advised there were no issues to report in regard to Sissinghurst War Memorial. Cllr Clifford tabled the quote of £973 to cut the hedge behind the Cranbrook War Memorial. He proposed that as the quote was in excess of what the Committee considered reasonable that it should be rejected, this was seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed.

Cllr. Clifford reported on a meeting he had attended with Cranbrook in Bloom to discuss the grounds maintenance at the War Memorial. They had prepared a proposal quoting £358 for re-planting the area replacing many of the plants and shrubs that were past their best. It was proposed by Cllr. Clifford, seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed to accept the quote and discuss further with Cranbrook in Bloom whether it should be partly financed by a grant application. It was delegated to Cllr. Clifford to negotiate the continuation of the current contract for grounds maintenance.

29/17: Angley Cottage:

As the Member responsible for Angley Cottage, Cllr. Goodchild had carried out the annual inspection of the property several months ago. He had reported that the cottage is extremely well looked after by the tenants and no issues were raised.

30/17: Vestry Hall:

The Chairman asked Members to consider if they felt it was necessary to advertise availability of the hall. The Clerk informed them that there was very little availability for regular bookings during the week. With this mind the Committee decided there was no call to advertise the hall.

Members were advised that the internal decoration of the entrances was taking a little longer than anticipated, as the lime plaster was slow to dry. The replacement side doors had been made, the contractor was waiting for the weather to improve before installing them.

31/17: Vestry Hall Cottage:

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Holmes had arranged with the tenants a convenient time to inspect the property and would report to the next meeting.

32/17: Information Centre:

The Clerk raised the contract with PHS for the entrance mats and informed members that she had been advised of an imminent price increase. It was proposed by Cllr. Clifford, seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed to cancel the current contract within the required notice period and to purchase two mats that could be cleaned by a local contractor. As TWBC reimburse the Parish Council for the cost of the contract under our license agreement, this would represent a huge saving to TWBC.

33/17: Noticeboards and Shelters:

No issues were raised.

34/17: Benches & Cycle Racks:

No issues were raised.

35/17: Red Telephone Kiosks:

In the absence of Cllr. Hall, no ideas for utilising the kiosks were put forward. Cllr. Fairweather had previously looked into relocating one of the kiosks to Sissinghurst, however information available at the time advised against attempting a move. He had since heard that several parishes had undertaken relocations successfully. The Clerk agreed to contact her network of clerks to ask how this had been achieved and what costs were involved, she would report any findings at the next meeting.

36/17: Parish Cake:

Cllr. Clifford asked his Committee in his position as editor of Parish Cake, to consider how their activities could be promoted in the magazine. He hoped to see this item as a regular agenda item for all committees to consider in the future. Members agreed that the replanting of the area around the War Memorial and the installation of a safety handrail in St. Dunstan's once completed would both be worthy of a mention in the magazine.

37/17: Items for Information:

In the light of Cllr. Goodchild's recent resignation, the Chairman would be looking for another member to join this Committee.