



palgravepc@gmail.com

Minutes of a Cemetery Committee Meeting held in the Community Centre at 7 pm on Thursday 9 March 2023

Present: Councillors N Weston (Chair, Pudney and Sneddon. Also in attendance Phil Dyer (PD) (Cemetery Administrator), Jane McClintock (JMCC) in an advisory capacity and Caroline Emeny (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

1 **The Chair welcomed** everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence** – All present.

3 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and no requests for dispensations and Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct.

4 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 8 Sept 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 **To note any matters arising**

There were no matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

6 **Garden of Remembrance (GoR)**

It was agreed that the current GoR Would be left as is with no chalk delineation or link fence as previously suggested due to only one complaint received. There are 8 spaces left in the current GoR and 5 reserved making a total of 12 spaces. It was agreed to scope out a new site for the next GoR. Suggested it be sited by the pear trees at the bottom of the cemetery which will be a more natural area in keeping with our rural environment.

Action: PD and JMCC to investigate and report back to the next meeting

7 **Cemetery Administration**

Nothing to report, very quiet with few burials. There was a problem with a sunken grave but this was quickly rectified by the funeral director responsible at the time. The gates are in hand, work to commence in the spring together with the churchyard gates. The car park needs spraying once the weather improves slightly.

Action: Clerk to instruct Excite to spray car park in the spring

Action: PD to email Clerk the updated cemetery files so we have a duplicate working set. Suggested this is done when we have a meeting or every 6 months whichever is sooner

8 **Future Proofing of the Cemetery**

There are 20 burial plots left equating to approximately 10 years supply. We could make more space available in a northerly direction but need to assess the water table to determine how much of the land is feasible. Is there a duty on the Parish Council (PC) to provide a burial site? Note post meeting information states that there is no regulation requiring the PC to provide this amenity.

Action: Clerk to investigate how we determine the water table

9 **Date of next meeting – Thursday 14 September 2023 at 7 pm**

The meeting closed at 1925 hours.