

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 20th February 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth

- 01/02/23** **Record of Members Present**
The following councillors were present: Councillors R Whittaker (Chairwoman), and Finch, and also J Whittaker - who was substituting for Councillor Stewart.
- 02/02/23** **Apologies for Absence**
There were apologies from Councillor Stewart - ill.
- 03/02/23** **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**
(i) There were no declarations of interest.
(ii) No dispensations had been granted.
- 04/02/23** **Clerk's Report**
Minute 06/01/23 Beacon - The Clerk informed the Committee that the owner of the land upon which the Beacon was sited had no objection to it being moved subject to several conditions. He had also visited the site to see the area of land which was required for a beacon and suggested an area 10m by 10m, however there was still a need for quotes to be obtained for the existing beacon to be moved or a new beacon.
- Minute 07/01/23 Cemetery** - The Clerk had sought three quotes for the decoration of the stairway area of Cemetery Lodge and put them before Full Council, who agreed to the work being done.
- Minute 08/01/23 Rules & Regulations** - Full Council had agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to re-adopt the rules and regulations for the Cemetery.
- Minute 09/01/23 Boot Scrapers** - Full Council had agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to purchase two boot scrapers.
- Minute 10/01/23 Lawnmower** - Full Council had agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to purchase a new lawnmower.
- Minute 11/01/23 Heater** - Full Council had agreed to purchase a new radiator for the office.
- Minute 12/01/23 Table & Bench** - The Clerk had sought a quote to repair, sand and varnish the picnic table at the QE2 Field and also asked North Lincolnshire Council to clean and varnish their wooden benches in Epworth.
- Minute 13/01/23 Furniture** - The Clerk informed the Committee that the two wooden tables in the Chapel of Rest had been disposed of.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

05/02/23

King's Coronation

At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 7th February 2023, it was agreed that the Clerk should apply for a grant for the King's Coronation from North Lincolnshire Council and that the budget for the King's Coronation should be delegated to the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to spend.

Members of the Committee further discussed some of the ideas from the last meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 16th January 2023.

Commemorative Bench - The Clerk provided each member of the Committee with three quotes for a bench, and members of the Committee thought the best location for it was Epworth Cemetery.

Best Dressed Competition - It was felt that the original idea of a Best Dressed Shop Window Competition with a £30 gift voucher prize should be replaced with a Best Dressed Business Competition to enable more organisations to take part in the competition. It was intended that the judging should take place from the 9th to 12th May 2023 and letters go out prior to this to inform all organisations of the competition.

Bunting - The Clerk provided each member of the Committee with three quotes for bunting. It was felt that a sample of each needed to be purchased to see which was the best one. Epworth Christmas Lights Committee had been asked if they were prepared to put the bunting up, however a risk assessment would need to be carried out prior to it being done and also letters sent to businesses asking for permission for it to go along their premises. It was suggested that the bunting should go up on Sunday, 23rd April 2023 and be taken down on Sunday, 21st May 2023.

Flags - It was felt that two flags should be purchased for the Market Place and Cemetery Lodge.

Schools - Ideas that the school may wish to consider as a way of celebrating the King's Coronation included a flag and flagpole, a seat, a tree, a framed picture of the King, or something of their own choosing.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor C Finch - **It was resolved that:- (i) The Clerk should purchase a recycled bench and plaque for the Cemetery from NBB Recycled Furniture at a cost of £395 + VAT, but only after hearing from North Lincolnshire Council about the grant application for it. (ii) The Best Dressed Business should receive a £30 gift voucher prize. (iii) Some sample bunting should be purchased before any big order for bunting is placed to see which was the best value for money. (iv) Two flags be purchased for the Market Place and Cemetery Lodge in due course. (v) The Youth Council should be asked for their ideas on a commemorative item to be given by Epworth Town Council to help them celebrate the King's Coronation.**

06/02/23

Planters

The Groundsperson had decided that he did not wish to look after the planters, so there was a need to discuss the maintenance of the kerbside planters. A total of eight planters needed looking after and watering. It was something which could be done by volunteers, contractors or someone employed to do it.

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the Council should advertise for volunteers to help with the maintenance of the kerbside planters.**

07/02/23

Chapel of Rest

Members of the Committee discussed the use of the Chapel of Rest for funerals and meetings and also any charges for doing so, however it was pointed out that if the Chapel of Rest was opened up to anyone then there was a danger the Council could in effect end up taking bookings away from other venues in Epworth, who may then later as a consequence need to seek financial help from the Council itself. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that this item be deferred to the Finance Committee to assess what the charge could be made if the Chapel of Rest was used for funerals.**

08/02/23

Hedge

A gap in the hedging had now been filled with new hedging and discussion then followed about the next stage of hedge maintenance which was needed due to ivy killing the hedge. Initially the hedging needed to be removed and a wire fence put up and then in due course new hedging planted. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Clerk liaise with the Groundsperson for him to work on the next stage of the hedging which needed doing.**

09/02/23

Strimmer

Members of the Committee discussed the disposal of old strimmer which did not work and was beyond economical repair and already been replaced with a new strimmer. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to dispose of the old strimmer and for it to be taken off the asset register.**

10/02/23

Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

The date, time and place of the next meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee will be confirmed by the Clerk in due course. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

11/02/23

Closure of Meeting

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.