

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 16th January 2023, at 7.00 pm, at Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth

- 01/01/23** **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.
- 02/01/23** **Apologies for Absence**
There were apologies from Councillor Stewart - ill.
- 03/01/23** **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**
(i) There were no declarations of interest.
(ii) No dispensations had been granted.
- 04/01/23** **Clerk's Report**
Minute 05/11/22 Precept - The Clerk informed the Committee that the amounts recommended by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee had been taken into account before the setting of the precept for 2023 / 2024.

Minute 06/11/22 Cemetery
(i) Erection of Headstones - The Clerk informed the Committee that Full Council had agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to allow the erection of the headstones subject to a statutory declaration being signed by the family to accept full responsibility for the maintenance of the memorials in the future.

(ii) Depth of Grave - The Clerk informed the Committee that Full Council had agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee that an exploratory dig be carried out to find out the depth of the grave.

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**
- 05/01/23** **King's Coronation**
Members of the Committee discussed various ideas for celebrating the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023, and it was noted that £1,000 had been set aside in the budget for this. Suggestions included bunting and flags, a best dressed shop window competition, a commemorative bench, a framed picture of the King for each of the schools, the planting of a tree and an exhibition of schoolchildren's coronation artwork. It was felt there was a need to find out what the schools and churches were doing to celebrate the King's Coronation. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council that it should do the following for the King's Coronation:- (i) Purchase an inscribed commemorative bench for the Cemetery. (ii) Arrange a Best Dressed Shop Window Competition with a £30 gift voucher prize. (iii) Purchase some bunting to put up along the High Street from the traffic lights to the Market Place. (iv) Purchase two flags for the Market Place and Cemetery Lodge.**

- 06/01/23** **Beacon**
 At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery Environment Committee held on Monday 10th October 2022, it was resolved that the Clerk should:- (i) Get the consent from the current owner for the Council to have the Beacon and be allowed to move it. (ii) Ask North Lincolnshire Council if they were prepared for it to be sited where proposed on Yealand Flats. (iii) Obtain quotes for the existing beacon to be moved / a new beacon. He had sent an email to the current owner to see if they would allow the Council to move the Beacon to a new location, however he had not yet asked North Lincolnshire Council if it was prepared for it to be sited on Yealand Flats because they wanted to know the area of land which was required (this would need a site visit), and quotes were being obtained for the existing beacon to be moved / a new beacon. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch
- It was resolved that the update on the Beacon be noted.
- 07/01/23** **Cemetery Lodge**
 Each member of the Committee was provided with a draft specification for the decoration of the stairway area of Cemetery Lodge. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Clerk should seek three quotes using the specification for the decoration of the stairway area of Cemetery Lodge and put them before Full Council.**
- 08/01/23** **Rules & Regulations**
 Each member of the Committee was provided with a copy of the rules and regulations for the Cemetery in order to review them. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to re-adopt the rules and regulations for the Cemetery.**
- 09/01/23** **Boot Scrapers**
 As a result of a problem with loose stone chippings from the path outside the Council Office and the Chapel of Rest being trodden into the buildings, members of the committee considered the purchase of two outdoor metal galvanised boot scrapers. They would cost approximately £10-20 each. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch
- It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to purchase two boot scrapers.
- 10/01/23** **Lawnmower**
 The Groundsperson had expressed some concerns about the age of the current lawnmower and how long it would last, it had done a lot of work over the years and now needed constant maintenance and oil to keep it working. It was agreed that a new lawnmower should be purchased now and the old one used as a back-up. A new lawnmower would cost in the region of £500 -700 + VAT. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to purchase a new lawnmower.**
- 11/01/23** **Heater**
 The storage heater in the office was not working, and the Clerk had been advised that it may be more cost effective to purchase a new storage heater rather than try and repair it, and it could cost up to £1,000 + VAT to do so. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to purchase a new storage heater for the office.**

12/01/23 **Table & Bench**

Members of the Committee discussed the refurbishment of the wooden picnic table at the Queen Elizabeth 2 Playing Field and also the sanding and varnishing of the seat outside Cemetery Lodge - the former belonged to the town council, whilst the latter to North Lincolnshire Council. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the Clerk should: (i) Seek a quote to repair, sand and varnish the picnic table at the QE2 Field. (ii) Ask North Lincolnshire Council to clean and varnish their wooden benches in Epworth (and copy in the ward councillors).**

13/01/23 **Furniture**

Members of the Committee discussed the disposal of some unwanted furniture in the Chapel of Rest - two wooden tables. It was noted that they were not on the asset register and of no value, therefore they should be disposed of. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved to dispose of the two tables in the Chapel of Rest.**

14/01/23 **Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee is due to be held on Monday, 20th February 2023, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

15/01/23 **Closure of Meeting**

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.