

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Monday, 10th October 2022, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth

- 01/10/22** **Record of Members Present**
The following councillors were present: Councillors R Whittaker (Chairwoman), Finch & Woods.
- 02/10/22** **Apologies for Absence**
There were apologies from Councillor Stewart - other commitments
- 03/10/22** **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**
(i) There were no declarations of interest.
(ii) No dispensations had been granted.
- 04/10/22** **Clerk's Report**
Minute 06/02/22 Parking - The Clerk was still in the process of seeking quotes for more parking at the front of Cemetery Lodge.
- Minute 07/02/22 Storage** - The Clerk had asked Epworth & District Agricultural Society if they were able to store three gazebos and they had said yes, they were happy to do so, and the Council could have access to them if they gave few days notice. At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, it resolved that it should accept three gazebos from North Lincolnshire Council, and they should be kept at Epworth Show Ground.
- Minute 08/02/22 Hedging** - At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, it agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk should purchase twenty 4ft high plants at a cost of £80 + VAT from Axholme Landscapes to fill the gap in the hedging at the Cemetery.
- Minute 09/08/22 Isle of Axholme Flag** - At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, it agreed with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee that the Council should purchase an additional Isle of Axholme Flag and Pole at a cost of £138 + VAT.
- Minute 10/08/22 Grassed Circle at Cemetery Lodge** - At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, it agreed that the Clerk should purchase two keep off the grass signs at a cost of £21.34 + VAT.
- Minute 11/08/22 Poppies** - At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, it agreed that the Clerk should purchase twenty poppies at a cost of £3 each from the Royal British Legion.
- Minute 12/08/22 Hanging Baskets** - The Clerk informed members of the Committee that the Groundsperson had stopped watering the Hanging Baskets on 14th September 2022 and they had been taken down on 18th September 2022.

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

05/10/22

Cemetery Lodge

The Clerk had sought quotes for the refurbishment of the stairway at Cemetery Lodge and to date he had received one quote and was about to get a second quote but needed to try and obtain a third quote. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the Clerk should try and obtain up to three quotes for the refurbishment of the stairway of Cemetery Lodge and that these should be put before the next meeting of the Full Council.**

06/10/22

Beacon

At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery Environment Committee held on Monday, 20th June 2022, it was resolved that the Clerk should write to North Lincolnshire Council querying ownership of the Beacon, and then approach the landowner to discuss rightful ownership. In an email he sent to North Lincolnshire Council he suggested that as Boothferry Borough Council's coat of arms hangs under the Beacon and a plaque on the Beacon has Boothferry Borough Council's name on it, then perhaps as the successor to Boothferry Borough Council it was now owned by North Lincolnshire Council. The Property Records Team at North Lincolnshire Council did not hold any records regarding the Beacon and in the absence of any records to the contrary agreed that North Lincolnshire Council as successor authority to Boothferry Borough Council would be the most likely owner. It asked if Epworth Town Council would be willing to accept the transfer of ownership of the Beacon in its present condition as a gift, including the liability for maintenance and relocation as required. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **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.**

07/10/22

Kings Head Croft

At a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 6th September 2022, the annual safety inspection report of the play equipment was noted, however the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee was asked to prioritise what needed to be done, therefore the Clerk provided each member of the Committee with a copy of it. Several issues had been raised including problems with the safety surface shrinking / separating and a need to re-glue and fill the gaps and joints as necessary, as well as replace missing caps off some of the equipment. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the Clerk should obtain quotes for the repairs and these be put before Full Council.**

08/10/22

Epworth in Bloom**(i) Hanging Baskets**

The cost of the hanging baskets was discussed by members of the Committee who upon looking at the costs involved in providing them felt there was a need to charge more next year. The cost of the hanging baskets was heavily subsidised by the Council, and the amount paid by businesses was a contribution towards part of the cost of providing them. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that a recommendation be made that the cost of a Hanging Basket for 2023 should be £30.**

(ii) Planters

At the moment the planters were looked after by volunteers, however it tended to fall on the same people, and it was proving difficult to manage. It was suggested that perhaps someone should be employed by the Council to take over responsibility for the planters and the amount of time which was required to do this was then discussed. It was suggested two hours per month in low season and two hours fortnightly in high season, however the time travelling between planters needed to be checked. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that a recommendation be made to Full Council for it to employ someone to look after the Planters.**

09/10/22**Cemetery Charges**

The Clerk provided members of the Committee with a copy of the existing cemetery charges to review. Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that a recommendation should be made that the charges for the Cemetery for 2023 / 2024 should be:-**

Cemetery

	<u>Current</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Purchase of Exclusive Right - Ashes	£216	£243	but if from outside Parish	£432	£486
Purchase of Exclusive Right - Body	£323	£363	but if from outside Parish	£646	£726
Purchase of Exclusive Right - Child U18	£81	£91	but if from outside Parish	£162	£182
Burial of Body	£108	£121	but if from outside Parish	£216	£242
Interment of Ashes	£81	£91	but if from outside Parish	£162	£182
Erection of Memorial	£54	£61	but if from outside Parish	£108	£122
Additional Inscription	£27	£30	but if from outside Parish	£54	£60
Chapel of Rest	Free	Free	but if from outside Parish	£54 per day	£61 per day
Register Search Fee - Per Hour	£20	£22			

10/10/22**Precept**

Members of the Committee had to consider any future expenditure that needed to be taken into account before the setting of the precept for 2023 / 2024, however there was a need for more financial information. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting.**

11/10/22**Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee is due to be held on Monday, 14th November 2022, at 7.00 pm, in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

12/10/22**Closure of Meeting**

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.