

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOTHAM PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21st July, 2009 in the Memorial Hall library room, commencing AT 8.45 P.M.

Present: J.P.Anderson, R.Muir, G.Trickett, M.Frankish, P.R.Dines, A.Farnsworth.

1/ Apologies: D.Power In Attendance: E.Padden.

2/ Minutes of the last Meeting:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Cemetery Sub-Committee, held on the 19th May, 2009 as previously circulated, be confirmed and signed as a true record of the business transacted, with the following amendment: **3/ Headstones Relocation:** insert speech marks round name 'Mincer'(nick name).

PROPOSED: P.R.Dines, SECONDED: M.Frankish. Vote: All in favour.

3/ Progress on the Response to the Objection to the Faculty:

The Chairman reported, J.M.F.Royce had lodged an official objection to the faculty for headstone removal. As both parties had agreed that the objection be dealt with by written representation, the Proposer (the PCC) had 21 days to state the case for the faculty application, the Objector (Mr Royce) had a further 21 days to state his objection and the Proposer had a further 21 days to respond, after which the Chancellor of the Diocese, Linda Box, would make her decision.

D.Power would draw up a plan of the headstones, using the 'green route' to calculate the amount of space that could be lost. A three foot gap would need to be left between graves to allow for headstone safety. As headstones and graves were of differing size, it was difficult to calculate exactly. D.Power had identified space for two hundred and forty new graves in the centre, the oldest section of the Cemetery.

4/ Policy on Tree Removal:

The Chairman reported there were thirteen trees within the area of the Cemetery to be re-used. A diagram of the trees was circulated. Every tree left would lose space for four potential graves. The large yew tree lost twelve spaces. It was agreed, the look of the Cemetery was important. The cost of tree removal not an issue as 'Mincer' had quoted a very acceptable price. A tree survey carried out in 2004 had identified some scruffy trees that could be removed but the work had never been carried out. The trees consisted of:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Large Holly (To be decided) | 6. Smooth Holly | 11. Redwood |
| 2. Yew | 7. Yew (Very big) | 12. Yew |
| 3. Yew | 8. Redwood | 13. Holly. |
| 4. Redwood | 9. Yew | |
| 5. Yew (poor quality) | 10. Yew | |

The original reason for the planting of Yew trees in a Cemetery was the belief that they warded off Devils.

It was agreed that some removal of trees would be necessary. The large yew tree's roots would be difficult to remove. It was necessary to find out if a faculty for each tree was necessary or if one faculty would cover all tree removal. If only one faculty was required, tree removal could be staggered over time.

PROPOSAL: All trees removed as per quotation with exception of large yew (7) because of its age and character.

PROPOSED: M.Frankish SECONDED: R.Muir Vote: two in favour, four against. Motion fell.

A further discussion re tree removal took place.

PROPOSAL: All thirteen trees should be removed.

PROPOSED: P.R.Dines SECONDED: J.P.Anderson. Vote: four in favour, two against. Motion carried.

5/ Matters to Report:

E.Padden suggested contact with the gardening club to offer them the opportunity to improve the Cemetery.

J.P. Anderson said he thought Gotham Cemetery would become a place of which the village would be proud.

6/ Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 20th October, 2009 at 8.30 p.m. in the library room of the Memorial Hall. Meeting closed at 10.00p.m.