

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the **Burial Committee Meeting**
Held at Malmesbury Cemetery on **Tuesday 4th June** at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors C Ritchie (Chair), S James, S D'Arcy, I Wallis & K Power

Also present: Claire Mann (Town Clerk) & four members of the public.

BC/24/12 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Hastings & Smith.

BC/24/13 To receive declarations of interest

None received.

BC/24/14 Public question time in respect of items included in this agenda.

None received.

BC/24/15 To approve minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

It was resolved to bring item 9 forwards for the members of the public in attendance

BC/24/16 To consider the latest information on the proposed Punters Farm development and the potential benefit or otherwise of linking this development with the Cemetery to enable pedestrian access through the Cemetery to Tetbury Hill.

Cllr Ritchie gave a brief outline of the situation to date. It was noted that the preferred option by the Town council and Tetbury Hill Gardens residents is for the footpath to be sited around the School. Cllr Ritchie stated that if the application goes in as it currently stands, it must be called in. All agreed.

It was agreed to report this back to Cllr Grant and Planning & Environment Committee to action.

2 members of Tetbury Hill Gardens left the meeting.

BC/24/17 To note income & expenditure report

The report was noted.

BC/24/18 To consider next area for interment of ashes burials.

This would be confirmed during the walk around at the last agenda item.

BC/24/19 To receive the burial and interment numbers for the year April 2023/24 in comparison to the previous two years.

The figures were noted, it was also noted that the increase in burial fees is likely due to more burials of people from outside of the Town Parish.

BC/24/20 To consider and agree the next steps to move forward the Chapel refurbishment and reuse plan with a view to starting public engagement and consultation at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr D'Arcy circulated a public consultation briefing paper for consideration, it was agreed that the consultation would be convened one Saturday morning in September. Cllrs D'Arcy, Power, Wallis & Ritchie will lead on this.

BC/24/21

To review the list of maintenance tasks at the Cemetery and decide on any amendments or additions required.

Sue Alexander and Melissa Robb introduced themselves and outlined the work they had undertaken with Conservation management at the Cemetery. Bird boxes have been installed and are being used. The hedge had been replaced with native plant species and is doing well. The Silver Birch Copse has established well and the plug plants from last year had struggled due to the very hot weather at the time of planting.

Thanks were expressed to Shaun & Mark for their help and advice.

Members walked around the Cemetery to identify outstanding issues. It was agreed to take action on the following.

- Purchase replacement noticeboard.
- Further consideration of solution for footpaths.
- The next ashes interment area would be to the left of the hedge when entering the new extension, one row and to ensure space is left around the bench for maintenance and movement.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm