

A MEETING OF THE EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON MONDAY 11th JUNE 2012 AT 6.45PM IN THE EAST BRENT NEW CEMETERY.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), Cllr E. Champion, Cllr V. Clapp, Cllr A. Gilling and Cllr B. Walker together with the Clerk M. Shobbrook were in attendance.

APOLOGIES: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The present Chairman Cllr J. Bowden vacated the seat and the Clerk to the Council M. Shobbrook presided over the election of a Chairman.

Election of Chairman: There was one nomination and the candidate (Cllr J. Bowden) was proposed by Cllr E. Champion and seconded by Cllr V. Clapp. A unanimous decision was made to elect Cllr J. Bowden as Chairman of the Parish Council Cemetery Committee for the year 2012/13. Cllr J. Bowden took the chair to preside over the rest of the meeting.

Election of Vice Chairman: There was one nomination and the candidate (Cllr E. Champion) was proposed by Cllr V. Clapp and seconded by Cllr W. Walker. A unanimous decision was made to elect Cllr E. Champion as Vice chairman of the Parish Council Cemetery Committee for the year 2012/13.

2177: MINUTES:

The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meetings held on 5th March 2012 having being circulated were taken as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman Cllr J. Bowden.

MATTERS ARISING:

2179: PLOT 31 IN GARDEN OF REST: email from Rev. S. Lewis advising that he is trying to avoid paying out another vast amount of money for a new memorial to be made.

In his email, Rev. Lewis advised that unfortunately, Mrs. Browning had a memorial made, which in the mix up (instigated) by the Funeral Directors, he inappropriately sanctioned. This has cost Mrs. Browning a large amount. Rev. Lewis advised that its' dimensions are: 36" height, 23" wide, and 3" depth and "because of the intransigence of the rules and regulations that govern the cemetery, he understands that this memorial cannot be used". "This leaves us with a financial issue that cannot be solved easily", he said. Rev. Lewis further advised that the stone mason has been asked if he can shave the already made memorial to the dimensions required for the cemetery, but this is not possible without damage.

Rev. Lewis requests that Cemetery Committee be generous and show goodwill on this occasion.

Having discussed the issue at length the committee felt that the error was made by the Church.

As the Church must have liability insurance in place for such eventualities, the committee felt that it should adhere to the rules and regulations of the Cemetery regarding Headstones. The committee members were anxious to avoid setting a precedent in making an exception to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. The Chairman asked the Clerk to invite Rev. Lewis to attend a meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 2nd July, prior to the full Parish Council meeting on that evening, in order that this matter is discussed in person in an attempt to finally resolve it.

2180: FINANCIAL MATTERS:

A copy of the receipts and payments until 31st May 2012 was issued to all Parish Cemetery Committee Members present. As the Bank statement to 31st May 2012 not received yet, the balances in the Bank Accounts will be reconciled at the next Committee Meeting by the Chairman

Since last meeting income of £524.00 received viz: -

Sale of Grass (Net) £164.00

J D Frost – Burial & ERB £170.00

R W Turrell – Memorial £150.00

M E Sockett – Memorial additional Inscription £40.00

The balance of the Cemetery Account is £2,817.93

2181: CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Tessa Munt MP – Regarding Work Groups from the Community Payback Scheme in Somerset.

This was discussed in detail by the committee and it was decided that the difficulties of complying with the requirements of the scheme were such that it was not a viable proposition.

The availability of the scheme will be noted on file and may be implemented at some point in the future.

2182: MATTERS OF REPORT:

Hedge cutting.

The committee members reviewed the state of the hedge bounding the cemetery. It was felt that it needed to be cut-back/trimmed. The Clerk was requested to obtain two quotations for the cost of undertaking this work and to report to the committee at the next meeting.

Commemorative planting of shrubs/plants within grave plots.

The committee members noted the tree/shrub planted within the burial plot of the late Mrs. Sylvia Galley (Plot 36) who died on 30th September 2003. It was felt that this tree/shrub was growing to a size which will become unacceptable. In order to avoid setting a precedent of allowing a breach of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to occur and not be corrected, the committee asked the Clerk to investigate the Parish Council's records in an attempt to make contact with the family of the deceased.

The committee recognised the delicacy of the situation so far as the approach to the family is concerned, but felt it must ask that some action is taken on this burial plot.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 7.15 pm

2183: DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the East Brent Parish Council Cemetery Committee will be held on 3rd September 2012 at 6.45pm in the East Brent New Cemetery.