

MINUTES OF A PARISH MEETING
held on Tuesday 29th October
Council Office, Church Street, Ledbury, HR8 1DH

Councillors: Howells, Whattler

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Morris

In attendance: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Olivia Bundy - Minute taker
Terry Dodd – Ledbury Cemetery Groundsman
2 Ledbury residents

Introduction

Town Councillor Howells welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the main item on the agenda was to discuss the proposed Cemetery Charges for the next year and any concerns or questions the public may have regarding the Cemetery.

Minutes

Members were asked to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 18 July 2019.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Meeting be accepted as a correct record

Update fees and charges for interments and permits from 20th July 2019

Councillor Whattler advised members that the Ledbury Cemetery charges and fees were increased by 2% on 10th July as agreed at the Environment and Leisure Committee on 20th June 2019

The Town Clerk provided members with a list of proposed Cemetery fees for 2020/2021 and was proposing to Council that the charges be split into residents /non residents with a 50% charge difference. The Clerk explained that she was also proposing to reduce the cost of the Transfer of Deed from £96 to £30 and the hire of the Chapel from £214 to £77.

Both members of the public agreed that non residents of Ledbury should be charged an additional fee to that of local residents and enquired whether this discount would apply to residents who now live in residential Homes.

The Clerk agreed that there would be exceptions including previous Ledbury residents who now reside in Residential Homes.

Dogs in the Cemetery

There was a lengthy discussion between members whether dogs should be allowed in the Cemetery.

Councillor Whattler proposed to allow dogs in the cemetery however enforce a 'dogs on leads rule'. He suggested providing dog bags and dog waste bins at the Cemetery and to install a new sign stating dogs welcome on leads.

It was agreed that dogs be allowed in the cemetery under the condition that they are on leads.

RESOLVED:

That a 'Dogs on leads' sign is present at the Cemetery along with dog bags and dog waste bins.

Scatter Garden

The Clerk advised members that in her previous role as a Cemetery Manager she helped introduce a Scatter Garden to the Cemetery which become very popular. She felt that this would be a great addition to the Cemetery as an alternative for the interment of ashes.

The Cemetery Groundsman noted that there had been a discussion at the start of the year regarding the possibility of planting a walkway of Cherry Trees.

It was agreed that the council should investigate costs of a new scatter garden in the cemetery and possibility of a Cherry tree walkway.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk look into costs of a Scatter Garden for the Cemetery and the possible Cherry Tree walkway/orchard.

Topple Testing / memorial inspections

The Town Clerk advised that in order to comply with legislation a Topple Testing programme had been booked for the end of November at the Cemetery. She explained that the company would send a report of the outcome and that the staff in the office

would contact the owners of the memorials if repairs were needed as part of the Councils statutory duty.

The Clerk confirmed that the Topple Testing Company would show the Cemetery Groundsman how to test memorials so that in the future it would be part of his Job role, and therefore would be less of a cost to the Council to carry out.

Councillor Howells enquired to see if members had any other questions before the meeting closed.

Parish meeting closed at 20:25

Signed.....

Dated.....

