

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

18 MAR 2017

Report of the Cemetery Working Party Meeting  
Held at the Town Council Offices at 7pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**Present:** Councillors; Martin Eager (Chair) & Bob Barnes  
Mark Bateman (Grounds Officer)

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Francis

**2. Last Meeting:**

The notes from the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were accepted.

**3. Memorial Bench Application:**

Cllr Barnes declared a family interest; members debated the three given possible locations in the old part of the cemetery, none were considered acceptable.

**Recommendation:** That the family members meet with Mark and any other interested Councillor to identify a suitable location for the bench.

**4. Works to Trees:**

The meeting was given a breakdown of proposed works to trees in the cemetery that had been identified by councillors and staff with Ben Andrews several weeks previously.

As the works are within budget and due to the closeness of the bird nesting season it proposed that the following recommendation went straight to Full Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

**Recommendation:** That all proposed works to trees are carried out immediately and within the quote given of £1925.00.

**5. Consider Action to Established Planted Tree:**

Members gave careful consideration to the correspondence from effected family members and also to the advice from our tree surgeon, members felt that this tree that had grown into maturity in a marked grave plot was going to cause further considerable issues if allowed to remain.

**Recommendation:** That the tree is cut down to ground level in consultation with the Hodges family, the roots to remain undisturbed and the stump treated.

**6. Existing Trees in Grave Plots:**

Members were in agreement that it was not acceptable that ad-hoc tree planting should be allowed to continue. Permission had not been asked with all recently planted trees and members felt that this could get out of hand and cause problems later.

**Recommendation:** That all the families of identified graves with recently planted trees are written to and requested to remove said trees.  
That all the funeral directors are made aware that trees/shrubs must not be planted in the cemetery.  
To update the cemetery policy document.

## **7. Coffins & Caskets Sizing and Materials:**

Members were made aware that there had been two recent internments using wicker coffins/caskets, and that the issues relating to such burials were not covered by the LTC cemetery policy. Advice and information had been sought from Herefordshire council and with this information and guidelines sourced from the Internet (International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association) the following recommendations were proposed.

**Recommendation:** That a 5 foot centre between grave plots is adopted as standard.  
Standard grave plot dimensions will be 2.5 feet wide by 8 feet long (to accommodate the grave marker).  
All wicker coffins and caskets will conform to these grave plot dimensions. The usual size of a normal wood coffin is up to 6' 2" long, 20" wide and 12" deep.  
All wicker coffins & gaskets will be supplied by the funeral director only, wicker coffins/caskets must be made so that leakage cannot occur.  
All funeral directors to be notified and cemetery policy document updated.

## **8. Memorial Markers:**

Members again considered alternative grave markers, in particular wooden crosses. Members thought that wooden crosses should be allowed subject to conditions, it was thought that the existing markers should remain.

**Recommendation:** That family members must contact the council before any memorial is placed on the grave. That if a wooden cross is proposed then it must be professionally made in a sustainable hardwood, and that the dimensions (width & height) must not exceed current (stone) grave markers.  
Approval to be sought before installation.  
Funeral directors to be notified and Cemetery policy document updated.

## **9. Maintenance:**

- a. Oakland Drive Boundary Wall, work due to start in April, stone has been identified and priced. Stone may be delivered or collected by Mark as & when required.
- b. Pea gravel path, work started and in hand
- c. Broadband connection up and running, CCTV ordered, Mark and Martin will install in near future.
- d. Chapel ridge tiles, members concerned about lack of repairs since problems identified last year, Mark asked to chase and keep members informed of progress.
- e. A five year maintenance plan including tree and wall works to be set-up.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.