



## Minutes of the ON-LINE Meeting of the Natural Burials / New Cemetery WG of Costessey Town Council held on Monday 1 February 2021 at 11am

Present: Cllrs J Amis (Chair), P O'Connor, S Hannant, D Burrill, G Jones, S Jones, G Dole H Elias (Town Clerk) N Bailey (Deputy Clerk)

### To receive apologies for absence

**BC001/21:** It had been impossible to access Cllr Bedford's residence to deliver hard copies of the documents. Notification had also been sent out by e-mail.

### To receive Declarations of interest

**BC002/21:** Cllr S Hannant declared a pecuniary interest as her property backs onto the cemetery

### To approve the minutes of the Natural Burials WG Meeting on 8 October 2019

**BC003/21:** The minutes were approved without amendments

### To consider the brief for the 10m strip pathway (see plans, brochures and Design & Access Statement)

**BC004/21:** The various surface types were discussed for the three strips of pathway to the east & west of the 10m strip and along the boundary with the wooden fencing to the gardens of Dr Torrens Way.

**BC005/21:** It was noted that, as planning permission had been granted for the 10m strip and the grassed square, the plots could be measured out. New cremation plots are to be two feet x two feet square. The first block near the car park should be started first with alternate rows left empty. The whole 10m strip to be used on this basis with the pathway plots being filled in afterwards, again starting at the first block "CRC". A site visit with the Head Groundsman to be arranged to check the practicalities on the ground. The fence against the 10m strip is the responsibility of the Town Council, and should be checked for maintenance. Deeds to be checked. **ACTION: Town Clerk, Head Groundsman**

**BC006/21:** Breedon Gravel "Wayfarer" was considered the most suitable surface for the pathways as appropriate for footways, not vehicles. Quotes to be sought. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

### To consider the new burials area

**BC007/21:** In the middle, Section A, coffin plots are only four feet wide and sometimes plots are "lost" due to the neighbouring plots encroaching. In Section D they are four feet six inches wide. All plots are nine feet long. It is proposed that in the new section they should be five feet wide and nine feet long.

**BC008/21:** To allow access to the new area the field gate should be moved to the top of the track and a new wire fence installed on the northern side of the track, but allowing turning space for farm machinery harvesting the Miscanthus crop. Quotes to be sought. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

**BC009/21:** The Planning Authority insisted that the track must be a standard road width to allow two vehicles to pass. (At the bottom of the hill vehicles should turn left and go round on a one-way system). Hearses will need a turning space / hammerhead. Funeral Directors to be contacted to make a site visit to advise. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

**BC010/21:** A large amount of planting against the bund with the Traveller site is on the plan. This needs measuring and planting in November, before the plots can be used, and the path should be placed adjacent to the bushes to allow easier access. Access for the Traveller community who live adjacent should be retained with a gate in the corner of the planting. Travellers to be notified that work will start soon to put in paths, but that provision will be made for their access. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

**BC011/21:** In the meantime Section D should be extended beyond the location of the potentilla hedge to maximise usage of plots for coffins. A site visit with the Head Groundsman to be arranged to check the practicalities on the ground. **ACTION: Town Clerk, Head Groundsman**

**To agree the date of the next meeting**

**BC012/21:** The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 15 April. Time TBC

**BC013:21:** The meeting closed at 12.15pm

**Chair:**

**Date:**