

Costessey Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Natural Burials / New Cemetery WG of Costessey Town Council held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 10.30am

Present: Cllrs S Jones (Chair), J Amis, S Hannant, G Jones, P O'Connor; H Elias (Town Clerk)

To receive apologies for absence

BC031/21: None

To receive declarations of interest

BC032/21: Cllr S Hannant declared a pecuniary interest as her property backs onto the cemetery

To approve the minutes of the Burials & Cemetery WG of 10 September 2021

BC033/21:

RESOLVED to approve the minutes with no amendments

To receive updates on items not listed below

BC034/21: Min: BC026/21: Grieving Relative: Town & Parish Councils were not covered by the Local Government Ombudsman, so this avenue was not open to the relative in question. However, some examples of responses from the Ombudsman to larger Burial Authorities eg Borough and District Councils were provided, which showed that often the Ombudsman declined to investigate if an authority had done all that was reasonably possible to address an issue.

BC035/21: Min: 021/21: Breedon Gravel "Wayfarer" quotes: Breedon Gravel had not been in touch again. It was pointed out that winter was not the best time to lay the material as water would cause damage to the surface in wintry weather. Quotes to be refreshed in the New Year, with a view to work commencing in spring. Also quotes could be sought for a path in the proposed new ashes area. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

BC036/21: Cllr P O'Connor arrived at 10.40am and Cllr S Hannant arrived at 10.47am

To consider an area for the scattering of ashes

BC037/21: It was suggested that the area immediately to the right of the drive down to the wire fence, but keeping away from the neighbouring houses could be a respectful space for the scattering of ashes. A path could link the drive to the path near the hut rather than the path being a complete circle as per the original design. It was suggested that if the line of the original Hall Drive could be found through that wooded area it would be a good foundation for a path. Cllrs to seek the line of the original Hall Drive. **ACTION: Members of the Natural Burials / New Cemetery WG**

(Note: the area will need planning permission). Wire fence to be taken down. Notices could also be erected explaining that the area was designated for ashes scattering. A wall of plaques was also discussed, plus the upgrade of the toilet to provide disabled facilities for mourners at funerals.

To consider widening the access drive

BC038/21: One of the requirements for the new extension at the grassed area was that the road should be wide enough for two vehicles to pass. The entry drive is narrower and it was suggested that "grasscrete" or similar could be installed to the south side of the access drive (opposite the area suggested for ashes scattering) to allow for more vehicles in that part of the cemetery.

To consider the grassed square burials area including planting

BC039/21: **Min:** **BC024/21:** **Trees:** the free trees had been collected. Site meetings had taken place and it had been decided that the brambles were to be cut back and trees planted on the edge of the grassed square, to create hedging with larger trees at the edges and an avenue along the middle. This would allow a Section E and a Section F to be created in the grassed area.

To receive information on Tree Surveys

BC040/21: The new SNC Tree Officer had made helpful suggestions regarding the type of survey and a contractor had made further suggestions as to the extent of what would be needed. Rather than a complete wood survey it might be possible to just survey the trees adjacent to the paths.

To consider Boundary Treatments

BC041/21: It had been noted that families often asked for ashes plots to be in CRB, NOT CRA -. This could be due to the fact that CRA was very close to the car park and therefore the plots were vulnerable. Edging to demarcate the area was discussed, with suggestions that lavender might be deer resistant.

BC042/21: The wider boundary treatment should be discussed after the tree work had been done.

To consider correspondence (verbal and written)

BC043/21: None

To agree the date of the next meeting

BC044/21: To be confirmed

BC045/21: The meeting closed at 12.20pm

Chair:

Date: