

**ST DENNIS PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Cemetery Meeting held at ClayTAWC on  
Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr Edmunds, Cllr Burnett, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Kelsey.

**In Attendance:** Lynn Clarke, Parish Clerk.

**C1/23 Election of Chair.**

Cllr Edmunds was nominated and seconded for the position of Chair of the Cemetery Committee. There being no further nominations a vote was taken. All present in favour. Cllr Edmunds was duly elected Chair of the Cemetery Committee.

**C2/23 Election of Vice Chair.**

Cllr Burnett was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice Chair of the Cemetery Committee. There being no further nominations a vote was taken. All present in favour. Cllr Burnett was duly elected Vice Chair of the Cemetery Committee.

**C3/23 – Apologies**

None.

**C4/23 – Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Edmunds declared an interest as a plot owner in the Cemetery. It was agreed to give a 12-month dispensation as decisions made are in the interest of persons living in the area of the authority.

**C5/23 – Public Participation**

Cllr Edmunds informed that a complaint has been raised with her about the kerb set that had been temporarily moved near a bench base. The Clerk informed that the memorial mason had been contacted and should have addressed this matter. Further discussion was undertaken regarding the removal of headstones prior to interments. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**C6/23 – To adopt the minutes of the cemetery meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**

**Resolved** – To accept the minutes. All present in favour.

**C7/23 – Matters arising from the last meeting.**

Markers for the Garden of Rest are still being investigated as the gaps are not a standard size for off the shelf purchases. It was agreed to ask the wall contractor for costs to have standard kerbs cut down and installed. Costing to be agreed via email.

Quotes to be obtained for the clearance at the entrance – 2 Quotes have been obtained but one contractor has pulled out. Quote to be circulated for agreement via email.

Bird boxes have been installed.

Brannel School have agreed to construct a bat box, awaiting further confirmation from the school about associated costs and how these will be met.

Directional sign for the cemetery will not be installed by Cornwall Council without a requirement for the need of a sign being evidenced.

**C8/23 – To consider the placing of a dog waste bin in the Cemetery and to agree any associated costs.**

It was **Agreed** to table this item. It was felt that a dedicated bin was not appropriate for the area and visitors would still use other bins for convenience.

**C9/23 – To agree the purchase of a new rubbish bin.**

**Resolved** – To allow the purchase of a replacement bin and to purchase a spare bin due to the age of the bins remaining. A budget of £50 was delegated to the Clerk and approval given to use the Parish Council card for the purchase if required. All present in favour.

**C10/23 – To consider the addition of a post box in the cemetery.**

Those present were informed about a project for the installation of post boxes in cemeteries to send letters to heaven. The initiative has been set up in multiple cemeteries across the country for people to send letters and cards to remember important dates or just to let their loved ones know how they feel. The benefits and pitfalls of the initiative were discussed at length.

It was **Resolved** To purchase a pole mounted post box, to be placed near the notice board. Confirmation of the design and the cost to be agreed via email. The box will be emptied by office staff and contents to be securely destroyed. Permission given for the use of the card for the purchase. All present in favour.

**C11/23 – To review the cemetery electric contract.**

It was **Resolved** to agree a 1-year contract with EDF. All present in favour.

**C12/23 – To agree the costs for footpath improvements.**

It was **Resolved** to delegate a budget to the office of £5000 for the work to include staff costs. Permission to use the card for the purchase of materials if required will be sought via email. All present in favour.

**C13/23 – To discuss the provision of a remembrance area for the scattering of ashes.**

It was agreed that the provision of a memorial area and an area for the scattering of ashes could be of benefit to the community. The scattering of ashes is not currently allowed within the burial grounds but could be offered as an alternative to those who do not wish to purchase a plot. It was highlighted that some Garden of Rest plots are being purchased for memorial purposes. Combining the two concepts could create an alternative space within the burial grounds for those who require it as an alternative option. It was agreed to investigate further findings to be reported at the next meeting.

**C14/23 – To agree the cost of a replacement bench for the Cemetery.**

**Resolved** – To purchase a re-cycled plastic bench at a cost of £439.00. All present in favour.

**C15/23 – To agree the cost of equipment hire for the moss removal in the Cemetery.**

It was **Resolved** – To hire the equipment for one week at a cost of £100 and to allow and approve additional weeks hours for the work to be undertaken. All present in favour.

**C16/23 To review Cemetery Charges for 2023 – 2024.**

The increase in sexton fees was put before the committee.

It was **Resolved** – to increase the costs of full burials to £650.00 all other costs to remain the same.

**C17/23 – Any other matters.**

None.

*That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.*

**C18/23 – Confidential Items.**

Removal of unauthorised kerb edgings – The Clerk informed that these are on the list for the next staffing meeting.

A verbal update on a recent meeting with a member of the public and Cornwall Cllr Cole was given to those present. A letter will be sent in due course to the complainant confirming the meeting outcome.

*Any other urgent and relevant confidential item, for information, that the Chairman considers appropriate.*

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.10 pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman of the Cemetery Committee