

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES CEMETERY & ALLOTMENTS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 02 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD

PRESENT Councillor A Croft (Mayor)
Councillor Amanda Wheeler (Chairman)
Councillor David Scammell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Gloria Johnson

ALSO PRESENT Sarah Dorson (Deputy Town Clerk)

585. TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC REPRESENTATION IN RESPECT OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA – There were none.

586. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Max Sawyer presented his apologies. These were noted and accepted by the Town Council.

587. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received in relation to items on the agenda.

588. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 07 November 2023, were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

589. CEMETERY

a. Actions to be resolved relating to Cemetery:

The committee is informed that, due to the identified health and safety risk of the collapsed Cemetery wall posing a threat to the public as it adjoins the public footpath, urgent measures were taken. The wall has been appropriately fenced off since before Christmas as a precautionary measure. Abbey Stone & Masonry Ltd has been chosen for the necessary repairs, which have been approved under the Town Clerk's delegated powers. The quoted cost for securing the area until the work is completed, and the subsequent removal and rebuilding of the affected section of the wall, is £3130 plus VAT. The repairs are scheduled to be conducted over the next few weeks to address the safety concerns and ensure the integrity of the cemetery wall.

Proposal 1– Proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler seconded by Councillor David Scammell and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the cost of £3130 plus VAT for the necessary repairs to the cemetery wall by Abbey Stone & Masonry Ltd.

b. Any correspondence received.

The committee received and acknowledged the correspondence concerning the proposed amendments to add a further base stone to an existing 6-foot 5-inch cross in the old section of the Cemetery. This alteration aims to increase the height to 7 feet 1 inch and to include four additional inscriptions. Considering that the officer's delegated powers do not cover these changes, the committee reviewed the request and concurred that the proposed alterations are acceptable. However, it is essential that they are implemented in strict adherence to the installation requirements specified in BS8415 and carried out by a BRAMM or NAMM registered mason.

Proposal 2– Proposed by Councillor David Scammell seconded by Councillor Andrew Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed amendments, which involve adding a further base and four additional inscriptions to the memorial. This should be carried out in accordance with the specifications outlined in BS8415 and undertaken by a mason registered with either BRAMM or NAMM.

c. *Tree Works associated with the Cemetery.*

Committee received and noted the fallen branch at Stamford Cemetery near the exit gate. It was observed that the tree was in a state of decay and deemed necessary for removal. The cemetery contractors have agreed to undertake the removal at no additional cost.

d. *Any other business associated with the Cemetery:*

i. *Opportunity to host Management of Memorials course.*

The committee acknowledged that discussions with ICCM have been initiated to host a Management of Memorials Course due to the distant locations of all other available courses. If approved, hosting this course would grant the council 2 complimentary training slots. Completing the course would permit the officer to legally inspect most memorials, eliminating the need for a contractor every 5 years for routine checks. Large memorials, such as the angel, would still require professional inspection due to the specialised equipment needed.

Proposal 3– Proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler seconded by Councillor Gloria Johnson and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the council's participation in the Management of Memorials Course, with the Deputy Town Clerk and another officer selected to undergo the training.

- ii. *Broken memorial in old section*** – Councillor Scammell raised concerns about the responsibility for maintaining memorials in the old section of the Cemetery. The committee was informed that it is the responsibility of the grant holders, and the council cannot allocate public funds for private property upkeep. Councillor Scammell highlighted a broken memorial in the old section with a pointed section that poses a safety risk. The committee was informed that the council's options are restricted to either removing or laying down the memorial, given the absence of an active grant holder for the plot.

Proposal 4– Proposed by Councillor Gloria Johnson seconded by Councillor David Scammell **RESOLVED** to approve the laying of the broken memorial in the old section of the Cemetery, to mitigate potential hazards and ensure the safety of visitors to the Cemetery.

590. ALLOTMENTS

a. *Actions to be resolved relating to the Allotments.*

Nothing to report.

b. *Any correspondence received.*

None had been received.

c. *Tree Works associated with the Allotments.*

No tree works to report.

d. *Any other business associated with the Allotments.*

- i. *Terminations failing payment*** – The committee received information regarding terminations due to non-payment. It was reported that eight allotment tenants have yet to fulfil their allotment rent obligations. All tenants have been contacted, and payments are expected to be made either within the current week or the following week.

Proposal 5– Proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler seconded by Councillor Gloria Johnson and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the extension for tenants to pay until January 15th. Following this date, tenants will be contacted via phone to confirm the end of the tenancy, with an additional 3-day period for payment before termination notices are issued.

ii. *Update on allotment statistics*

7 Vacant plots - Priory Road – 1, Queens Walk – 1, Uffington Road – 2, Water Furlong – 3
14 People (5 for specific plots) on the waiting list.

1 People have been removed from the waiting list since 1/10/2023.

0 plots have been offered. 268 Let plots. 4 Unlettable plots.
Site inspection - 25th January 2024 at 10am at Priory Road
Site Reps Meeting - 27th March 2024 2pm at Town Hall

iii. Committee to confirm Warning notice from allotment inspection.

Committee received and noted the condition of the plot following the inspection held on Queens Walk and approves the issue of a 1st warning notice to the tenant of plot C11b for having tyres on their plot which are not permitted. Also plot D19b is to be issued a 1st warning letter if they pay their allotment rent.

Proposal 6 – Proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler seconded by Councillor David Scammell and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the issue of a 1st warning notice to the tenant of plot C11b and D19b following payment.

iv. To approve shed / greenhouses / trees requests.

Committee noted the approval of a Shed on plots D22a, UN08 and the approval of a polytunnel on plot H79 and Greenhouse on plot PR31a.

v. To approve return of deposit requests

There were none.

vi. Mindspace allotment

Councillor Wheeler provided a report on the visit to the Mindspace plot, conducted by Councillor Scammell and Councillor Wheeler. During the visit, inquiries were made about the possibility of changing the rules to permit Mindspace not to cultivate the full 75% of the plot. Some councillors expressed the view that the rules should be upheld. Following discussions, it was agreed for Mindspace to attend the next meeting to further discuss the issue. Additionally, it was decided to conduct investigations regarding the potential use of allotment land for a wellbeing and sensory garden, considering its impact on other allotment tenants.

591. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: – Tuesday, 05 March 2024 at 6.30pm

Chairperson
(The meeting closed at 7.08pm.)