

# **DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

27<sup>th</sup> February 2018

At a meeting of the **Social & Welfare Committee** held in the Assembly Rooms on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018** upon the rising of the Planning Committee Meeting.

**Present:** Councillors R Hambidge (Chairman) H Bushell, R Hambidge and L Monument.

Also present: Councillors A Bowyer, P Duigan and P Morton, Town Clerk T Needham and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron.

The Mayor, Councillor H Bushell took the chair.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors H Clarke, B Frith and T Monument.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor H Bushell proposed Councillor R Hambidge, seconded by Councillor L Monument, there were no further nominations, it was agreed that Councillor R Hambidge be Chairman of the Social and Welfare Committee.

Councillor R Hambidge took the chair.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman.**

Councillor R Hambidge proposed Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H Bushell, there were no further nominations, it was agreed that Councillor L Monument be Vice Chairman of the Social and Welfare Committee.

5. **To consider standardising headstone bases in new cemetery.**

The committee recommended that the Town Council produces concrete bases of a standard 4ft length and stipulate that only Dereham Town Council concrete bases can be used in the new cemetery. The cost of the bases would be approximately £40 and would be added to the cost of the consent to erect a headstone.

Councillor R Hambidge suggested that the bases should be parallelograms.

6. **To consider revised form of Exclusive Rights of Burial for both cemeteries.**

The committee recommended that the draft revised form of Exclusive Rights of Burial for both cemeteries subject to the Town Council solicitor checking the wording.

The reason for a revised form of Exclusive Rights of Burial is for a simpler method of ensuring that people have the option to be buried within or next to the same grave as loved ones but does not allow for the right to pass to a number of people and create an administrative burden.

Councillor L Monument agreed that the burden of transferring ownership should be alleviated if possible but there should still be a firm guarantee that people can be buried according to their wishes.

7. **To consider revising conditions for the permission to erect a headstone in both cemeteries.**

The committee recommended revising the conditions for the permission to erect a headstone in both cemeteries to grant a headstone for 50 years with an automatic right to renew the permission, therefore provided that descendants wish it, the permission would continue after payment of an admin fee.

8. **To consider setting aside areas for kerbed memorials and an area for children's burials in new cemetery.**

The committee recommended setting aside an area for kerbed memorials and an area for children's burials in the new cemetery

9. **To consider revision to table of fees for both cemeteries.**

Only sale of Exclusive Rights of Burial and fees for kerbed graves were reviewed.

The committee recommended that a fee for the sale of Exclusive Rights of Burial should be £500 and be valid for 50 years, this can be extended for an additional 25 years for an admin fee. An extension of any longer would require a full fee being paid.

The committee recommended the sale of Exclusive rights for ashes would be valid for 50 years and the fee increased to £100.

The committee recommended permission for kerbed graves and the fee would be paid prior to interment. The Clerk will investigate and bring recommendation back to Full Council

The committee recommended that a fee of £164 remains the same for the permission for a child's kerbed grave.

10. **To consider vases or any permanent memorial in front of the headstone in new cemetery.**

The committee recommended that in order to keep maintenance to a minimum all vases in the new cemetery should be on the concrete base of the headstone, and no charge will be made for additional vases.

11. **To consider scattering of ashes in new cemetery.**

The committee recommended that several areas be nominated for the scattering of ashes these would be around the trees and the mounds at the front of the cemetery. A fee of £50 would be charged for scattering ashes. A memorial plaque could be purchased through the Town Council with a fee for the permission to erect the plaque within the shelter of £75 for 10 years and £150 for 20 years.

12. **To consider additional expenditure at new cemetery.**

When the new cemetery is opened there will be an under spend of around £30,000.

The committee recommended that some of the under spend from the construction of the new cemetery be used to:

- To purchase a small shipping container to be placed within the maintenance compound so that tools and equipment can be securely stored on site.
- To work with the Norwich Bat Group and spend up to £1500 (40 boxes) on bat boxes at the new cemetery, Neatherd Moor, Vicarage Meadow and Etling Green.
- To set aside up to £1600 (4 boxes) to purchase owl boxes on posts and to work with the Hawk and Owl Trust to identify suitable locations for the boxes which are to be placed around the new cemetery, Neatherd Moor, Vicarage Meadow and Etling Green
- To improve hedging along Shillings Lane.

**Chairman**