# Minutes of the Cemeteries Committee Meeting of Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council. Held at the Parish Hall, Ockbrook, on Wednesday 24th July 2024, Immediately After the Planning and Environment Committee.

## Present.

Councillors S Cresswell (Vice Chair), G Markwell and C Millward.

## Also, Present.

Councillor G Maskalick, S Kitchener (Clerk and RFO) and 5 members of public.

## 102/07/24 Noted Apologies for Absence.

Councillors K Thomas (family matter), S Fraser-Burton (prior commitment) and J Fazackerley (health matter).

## 103/07/24 Approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 19th June 2024.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor G Markwell, seconded by Councillor C Millward and all unanimously agreed that the minutes be approved as a true record and were signed by the Vice Chair at the meeting.

## 104/07/24 Variation of Order of Business.

None.

## 105/07/24 Declarations of Members Interests.

None.

## 106/07/24 Committee Items for Discussion/Action/Update.

### Look into Having the Cemetery Open for an Extra Hour During the Summer Period.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor G Markwell, seconded by Councillor C Millward and all unanimously agreed to change the summer opening times to 8.30-20.00 from 2025. **ACTION** The Clerk to inform the staff who open and close the cemetery and to get the sign changed.

### Consider What to do With Grave Surrounds in the Cemetery That Were Installed Without Permission.

A discussion was held. Councillor G Markwell suggested a retrospective application to be made by all who have installed the grave surrounds without permission. A group from the committee will go to the cemetery and take photographs of all the surrounds to forward to the Clerk who will write to each family. The retrospective applications will then be taken to a committee meeting to agree to them or not, if there are any problems with what has been installed a face-to-face meeting on site with each individual will be organised to discuss the Parish Councils concerns. There will be no charges imposed on the relatives for the retrospective applications.

**RESOLVED** proposed by Councillor G Markwell, seconded by Councillor S Cresswell and all unanimously agreed to the above.

### Consider What To Do With Memorabilia Left on Cemetery Benches.

A discussion was held. Notices will be installed on the cemetery gates and notice board informing all that an inspection of the memorial benches is to be held regarding items placed on the benches as these are not allowed. In September a group from the committee will do the inspection, taking photographs of any with memorabilia on to forward to the Clerk. The Clerk will write to the individual bench owner requesting the items to be removed within a month if the items are still in place a 2nd letter will be sent giving them two weeks to remove the items. If they are still in place the Parish Council will remove the items and hold for a period of 6 months, once the 6 months are up a decision will be made at either a committee meeting or full Parish Council meeting as to if the items should be disposed of.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor G Markwell, seconded by Councillor C Millward and all unanimously agreed to accept the above.

### Discuss What to Replace the Poppy Cross With.

Councillor G Markwell suggested to remove the cross and the lavender, replacing it with a flagpole and a circular bench on a paved area.

The Clerk mentioned the costs involved for purchasing and installing the flagpole and the bench. As these haven’t been budgeted for and there is not enough left in the miscellaneous pot to purchase these items, it will need to be included in the budget for 2025/26.

Councillor G Maskalick mentioned the possibility of looking for a grants for the flagpole and bench, he suggested the East Midlands Mayor and the individual Airlines.

The flag to be flown will always be the Union Jack.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor G Markwell, seconded by Councillor C Millward and all unanimously agreed to the above.

### Discuss the Possibility of Having a Christmas Choir at the Cemetery.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor C Millward, seconded by Councillor T Stevenson and all unanimously agreed for Councillor S Cresswell and C Millward to start organising this event and to report back in Septembers committee meeting.

### Consider Installing a Flagpole for Balmoral Road Cemetery.

See poppy cross item.

### Consider the Parish Council Installing a Bench Within Balmoral Road Cemetery.

See poppy cross item

### Consider Allowing Small Christmas Trees Onto the Plots, to be Removed by the 12th Night and Agree a Maximum Size.

The Clerk contacted Mr Christmas tree who could only supply trees as small as 80-90cm at a cost of £11.00 each, but we would also need to supply a pot for each tree.

**RESOLVED** Proposed by Councillor T Stevenson, seconded by Councillor S Cresswell and all unanimously agreed to allow Christmas trees on site until the 12th night with a maximum height of 2 foot.

## 107/07/24 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next Cemeteries Committee meeting will be called on the 25th September 2024.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20:05.