

# SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

1 March 2011

**PRESENT:**                      Chairman:       M J R Mallows                      Snr Asst. Clerk:   Mrs G A Pack

Councillors

Miss S E Clarke

K J L Cooper                      (arrived 7.55pm)

W A Fell

E C Murray

W N Reid

R M Richmond

Mrs J G A Smith

## 1       **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None were received.

## 2       **PRESENTATION BY MISS R PAINTIN AND MR J COLES**

Miss R Paintin of H J Paintin Ltd, Funeral Directors, had concerns about the Parish Council's policy of relatives being able to reserve plots in Huckeridge View due to the very hard chalky area. With the help of Mr J Coles, grave digger, it was explained that if the plots were not used for many years without pre-digging it would be extremely difficult to hand dig and could become a Health & Safety issue. Mr Coles explained that pre-digging of reserved plots could be achieved by just digging a trench 18" wide down to a depth of 6'0" which would then allow hand digging at a later stage as the earth had been disturbed.

The question was also asked why are the Parish Council's headstone plinths being removed and Funeral Directors using their own. It was explained that the plinths have to be custom drilled to match the headstone chosen by the relatives and this is not known until the headstone is ready for erection.

The Chairman thanked both Miss R Paintin and Mr J Coles for giving up their time and for their very informative talk, which will be taken on board when discussing these issues and concerns at the next Cemetery Committee Meeting.

## 3       **DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING**

None declared

## 4       **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2010 were read, confirmed and signed. It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor E C Murray and **SECONDED** by Councillor W N Reid to **ACCEPT** these minutes

**VOTE: 8 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)**

**5 MATTERS ARISING – New information only**

**Chapel Roof**

This work had not been done as concern was expressed about damaging the tiles. It was suggested that it might be possible to jet wash the tiles. It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor W A Fell and **SECONDED** by Councillor W N Reid that the Clerk obtains quotations for this work to be carried out.

**VOTE: 8 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)**

**Bier in the Chapel**

Councillor W A Fell volunteered to have a look at the bier with a view to suggesting any possible recommendations with regard to the woodworm.

**Turning Circle**

This was on-going and needed to be investigated further.

**Trees**

It was explained the 5 chestnut trees on the main path of the Cemetery have deteriorated rapidly over the last few months and will need attention sooner rather than later.

**6 STATE OF CEMETERY AND HUCKERIDGE VIEW**

Deep concern was expressed that relatives were not adhering to the rules of the Cemetery, a copy of which had been given to them and which are also displayed at the entrance to Huckeridge View. Clerk to write to all relatives to remind them of the rules.

**7 STATE OF THE CEMETERY CHAPEL**

It was reported that there were weeds growing round the edge of the walls. Clerk to ask Mr A R Poole, Head Groundsman, to organise the removal of the weeds.

It was also reported that Mr A R Poole was unable to find a supplier of a suitable replacement down pipe. Councillor W N Reid suggested Clarkes of Walsham is contacted for advice.

**8 GATE BETWEEN SPICERS AND CEMETERY**

It was **AGREED** that a gate was needed but that it should be exactly the same design as the other gates.

Regarding the gate a quotation from Tomlinson Steel Limited was presented for the sum of £280.00 + VAT for fabrication and supply of new steel gate to match existing style. It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor W A Fell and **SECONDED** by Councillors R M Richmond to **ACCEPT** this quotation under Chairman's Actions to enable the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

**VOTE: 8 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)**

**9 CONCRETE PLINTHS FOR HEADSTONES**

Already discussed in Item 2

## **10 COUNCILLORS ISSUES CONCERNING CEMETERY**

### **Benches**

It was pointed out that there was a lack of benches in Huckeridge View especially at the northern end.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor E C Murray and **SECONDED** by Councillor R M Richmond that relatives who had requested benches recently be given the opportunity to now purchase a bench.

**VOTE: 8 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)**

At this point Councillor E C Murray thanked Councillor M J R Mallows and Mr R Mallows for all their hard work behind the scenes regarding the new fencing, and turfing the area between the Cemetery and the rear of the Pavilion. Their hard work was appreciated by all concerned, and it was felt that a written acknowledgement of their work would be appropriate.

### **Spicers Pavilion Open Day**

A notice was presented to the Committee regarding Sawston United FC advertising a football match after the official Open Day event. Firstly, the Parish Council had not been informed of this event and secondly the Pavilion was referred to as 'Our New Clubhouse' by Sawston United F.C. It was **AGREED** that due to the short notice the event could go ahead but the Club would be invoiced and that the posters should be altered to read 'Community Room'

**VOTE: 8 FOR : (UNANIMOUS)**

## **11 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Due to the complex issues of the Cemetery including charges it was **AGREED** that an Extra Cemetery Committee Meeting would be held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at 7.30pm to discuss the following:

- Pre-digging charge (to be incorporated in cost of reserving plots)
- Concrete plinths for headstones costs

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm**