

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING/WALKABOUT HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2009 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM

Present: Councillor G Gilbert (Chairman), Councillors M Hall, D Milton and W Momen.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Clerk Mrs L Trevena.

2. DECLARATION FROM MEMBERS IN RELATION TO PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were none.

3. TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2009

The Report of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 6th April 2009 was taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. WALKABOUT TO CONSIDER WORK REQUIRED

4.1 Northill Churchyard

Site satisfactory. No work required.

4.2 Northill Cemetery

4.2.1 A grave owner had requested that soil should be available for the topping up of sunken graves in Northill Cemetery, as was the case in the past. The minutes of the Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 7 January 2008 state:

"A complaint had been received from a resident regarding the removal of excess soil from Northill Cemetery as she had wanted to top up a sunken grave. Members discussed this and it was agreed to monitor the situation. In the meantime the Clerk to speak with undertakers and inform them that they may place any excess top soil only in the shed at the cemetery with the bulk of the earth still to be removed from site."

RECOMMENDED that due to strong local concern the Clerk be asked to arrange for a small amount of cemetery top soil to be placed in the shed for topping up.

4.2.2 The Clerk had obtained the following estimates for possible work on the paths:

- a) topping up all existing paths with pea shingle in old and new section at approx. £400;
- b) digging out old section to make a path from existing in old section to existing in new section at approx £1,000;
- c) edging of pathway with a metal edging at approx. £18 per metre including labour (or another edging material);

RECOMMENDED that due to the high costs the only work to be done on the paths should be the topping up with pea shingle of the existing path in the old section, and the area in front of the shed in the new section, and that other paths should remain as they are. The Parochial Church Council should be informed that the Council proposes to carry out this work.

It was agreed that a better use of money would be to renovate the cemetery shed.

RECOMMENDED that a quotation to repair the bottom of the shed doors and paint the doors and eaves be obtained. The Parochial Church Council should be informed that the Council proposes to carry out this work.

4.3 War Memorial, Ickwell Green

Due to the approach of bad weather, and the fact that no quotes for the repair work were available, it was agreed not to stop at the War Memorial on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

4.4 Caldecote Cemetery

This cemetery shed is in need of repainting.

RECOMMENDED that a quotation to paint the shed doors and eaves be obtained. The Parochial Church Council should be informed that the Council proposes to carry out this work.

4.5 Caldecote Churchyard

4.5.1 On the left-hand side of the gate (looking from the outside) the ends of two metal bars have broken away and require securing by either spot-welding or possibly stapling. It was noted that a contractor with portable welding equipment would be required.

RECOMMENDED that repairs be carried out to the cemetery gate.

4.5.2 After discussion it was agreed that minor work is required within the churchyard.

RECOMMENDED that the contractor be asked to carry out the following:

- a) Remove ivy from south transept wall and drainpipe.
- b) The hedge on the southern boundary requires a "general tidy up" (remove brambles, broken branches, creeper, and ash sapling).
- c) Remove ash saplings in graves in south western area of the churchyard (e.g. on Godfrey and Goss graves)
- d) Remove ivy from yew tree at north western corner of the church.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5th October 2009