

Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 25th March 2010 in the Jubilee Hall Rothbury commencing 730pm

Those Present

Cllr. Sandford, Chairman	-	Rothbury Parish Council
Cllr. Mrs Dawson, Mrs Edes, Reynolds	-	Rothbury Parish Council
Cllr. Monaghan	-	Whitton & Tosson Parish Council
Cllr. Gutherson	-	Thropton Parish Council
Cllr. Gasken	-	Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council
Alistair Gaskell	-	Cemetery Superintendent

- Congratulations were given to Alistair on the birth of his daughter.
- Northumberland County Council had made error on Council Tax bill, attributing the whole of the Burial Committee precept to Rothbury Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting held 1/10/09

- Minutes agreed as a true record.
- No Sub-Committee meetings held since last full meeting.

Matters arising from previous meeting

- Rabbit problem increasing. Agreed to re-employ contractor to backfill and place pellets.
- Leaning gravestones/wall repairs carried out.
- Tree works to be actioned in due course.
- Railings installed.
- Lodge radiator repair carried out.
- Sewage pipe repair carried out, manhole covers replaced.
- Yard to be flagged in due course.

Superintendent's Report

- 15 burials & 8 ashes from 1st April 2009 to date.
- 10.5 hours to be reclaimed from Rothbury Parish Council for bed-works.
- Youth Project had carried out bulb planting at Cemetery. Letter of thanks to be sent.

Finance:

A) Present balances

Account in credit.

B) Re-chargeable hours to Rothbury P.C.

10.5 hours, agreed at £9/hour.

C) Increase fees

Agreed at 3%.

D) Superintendent's wage and rent increase

Agreed at 3%.

E) Final year end statement 2009/10

Report to be issued as soon as possible after year end.

New Mower

Balance at end of year to be put towards replacement mower. Alistair had contacted several suppliers for quotations, also e-bay which is considerably cheaper, although could be problems with guarantees. Robson & Cowan do not have suitable machinery; however information awaited from Lloyds at Throckley.

Plans for extending wall railings

Quotation received from J Hallowell - £8180 for whole of next part, unless grant funding sought may not happen. Cllr. Murray has provided extensive opportunities to pursue funding.

Update on records

Records now computerised. Thanks given to Cllr. Monaghan.

Correspondence received from Whitton & Tosson Parish Council praising Cllr. Monaghan and discussing computer issues, archivist duties. Cllr. Monaghan has auditing issues eg errors could be made on inputting information, it was agreed Cllr. Monaghan would act as auditor. Alistair in possession of lap-top which would require Excel programme to run, however does not have printer but this could be purchased, and Cllr. Monaghan to instruct Alistair on searching records. If queries received, should be chargeable - agreed £20 rate for in-depth searching £5 for simple search. Cllr. Reynolds has spoken to Woodhorn Museum about data protection, only dubious area is information regarding purchase of plots; however this information is not computerised.

Report on bulb planting

£100 required for shrub purchasing, agreed.

Cemetery Superintendent Sick Pay

Alistair reported there is no scope for reimbursement to Burial Committee for injuries suffered within fire service duties. Cllr. Reynolds said generally as long as somebody has not made themselves unavailable for work due to reckless behaviour, no particular action should be taken - the Fire Service is undertaking a civic duty and most employers would embrace this.

Currently, Alistair's contract is the same as old Alnwick District Council employees. Cllr. Sandford thought the time to look at new contracts would be if Alistair left and a replacement employed.

Any Other Business

- Cllr. Sandford to stand down as Joint Burial Committee Chairman end 2010.

Date of next full meeting - October 2010

Date of next sub-committee meeting - June 2010