

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BURIAL AUTHORITY** of Great Cornard Parish Council

held at The Stevenson Centre on Monday 22nd January 2024

**PRESENT** Councillors Cllr David Young **Chairperson**

Cllr Marjorie Bark Cllr Tony Bavington

Cllr Sharon Bowman Cllr Kevin Graham Cllr Tim Hurst Cllr Melanie Keane Cllr Stewart Sheridan Cllr Pamela White

Cllr Colin Wright

Acting Council Manager Miss E Skuce

Council Administrator Mrs S Kubat

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jane Brooker, Tom Keane, Jane Wakeman and Judith Wilson.

1. **To confirm Minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023**

Members **AGREED** that the Minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1. **To consider the Items BRought Forward List**

Members **NOTED** the Items Brought Forward List.

1. **TO RECONSIDER A QUOTATION TO REPAIR THE MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN WALL**

Members had previously reviewed the quotation received from MCG Property Maintenance & Groundworks to repair the Memorial Rose Garden Wall but had asked that the quote be resubmitted with a breakdown of the labour cost. This has now been received and Members **AGREED** to accept the quotation of £508.30 (no VAT) to repair the Memorial Rose Garden wall.

Funds to come from the Cemetery Budget.

1. **TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION TO REMOVE KERBSTONES AFFECTED BY TREE ROOTS**

Members reviewed Report No. G12 in relation to tree roots which are pushing a grave up from its fixed position **(see Appendix A)**. The report contains a quotation for £900 plus VAT from Luxstones to remove the kerbset on the grave, storage and resetting once works to the problem tree roots had been completed.

The Acting Council Manager advised that since Members had received their papers for tonight’s meeting, a quotation of £230 plus VAT had been received from Evergreen Landscapes and Fencing to carry out localised pruning to the tree roots once the kerbstones had been removed.

Members **AGREED** Luxstones’ quotation of £900 plus VAT to remove and reset the kerbstones.

Members also **AGREED** Evergreen Landscapes and Fencing’s quotation of £230 plus VAT to carry out localised pruning to the tree roots.

Funds to come from the Cemetery Budget.

1. **TO DISCUSS THE CRIMINAL DAMAGE INCIDENT AT THE CEMETERY AND RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE POLICE INVESTIGATION**

The Acting Council Manager advised Members that the Police now have a suspect they are waiting to interview regarding the damage done to the Cemetery over the Christmas period. The Police have also contacted the families affected by the damaged graves.

The vehicle gates remain locked although the Community Wardens and Funeral Directors have been given the access code. The pedestrian gate is left unlocked. Members **AGREED** to keep the vehicle gates temporarily locked until such time as the weather improves and at least until the turning area project has been completed.

Members reviewed correspondence received from two members of the public regarding the general security at the Cemetery. It was **AGREED** for Miss Skuce to arrange a meeting of the working party to discuss any additional security measures and in particular work that will be required to close the gap in the fence at the top of the Cemetery.

1. **INTERMENTS**

**Name Age Date of Burial**

Stella Lucy COOK 90 20th December 2023

Michael HARDING-PAYNE 79 15th January 2024

Clive William MARTIN 75 16th January 2024

**Meeting closed at 8:36pm**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson Cllr David Young**

**APPENDIX A**

**Report No: G12**

**To consider a quotation to remove kerbstones affected by tree roots**

This matter was originally brought to the attention of the Cemetery Working Party in June 2023 following a family member approaching the Council regarding the tree roots pushing up the kerbstones on their parents’ grave. The Working Party agreed that tree root issues at the Cemetery should be dealt with on a case by case basis. It was agreed for the then Council Manager to seek advice from Luxstones, a local stonemason who had completed similar works for the Council at St Andrew’s Churchyard.

A grave stone in a cemetery

Description automatically generatedThe issue of the fallen headstone is being treated as a separate issue and the Exclusive Rights owner is dealing with the refurbishment and refitting of the headstone with Luxstones. It is hoped that it can be reinstalled at the same time as the kerbstones are reset and once the tree roots have been dealt with.

Luxstones have confirmed, it is difficult to prove that the tree roots are responsible for the falling of the headstone. The family member was going to have the lettering refurbished in any event, so they are therefore happy to pay for that element of the work.

Luxstones have supplied a quotation (attached) for £900.00 plus VAT to remove the kerbstones, take them to their workshop, then reset the kerbstones once the work to the tree roots is complete.

A quotation to deal with the tree roots is awaited (at the time of writing this report), from the Council’s tree inspection company.

**Recommendation:** to accept the quotation from Luxstones for £900 plus VAT to deal with the removal and resetting of the kerbstones. To also consider any quotation received from the Council’s tree inspection company to carry out localised pruning to the tree roots once the kerbstones have been removed.

There are sufficient funds in the Cemetery Budget to cover these expenses.