

Melbourne Parish Council

Mrs J Storer - Parish Clerk, 2 Mansfields Croft, Etwall, Derbyshire DE65 6NJ



Committee Minutes

Burial Grounds

Minutes of a meeting of the Burial Grounds Committee held at 7.00pm Monday 9th December 2013 at the Shone Lounge, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, Melbourne

Present – Cllr Hicklin (Chairman), Butler, Carpenter (from 7:07pm), Stockill, Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Sharp

Minutes of the previous meeting approved by Council were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

186. Cllr Carpenter has started on and will continue documenting the procedures at the Burial Ground. **(Action: Cllr Carpenter, Cllr Hicklin and Sexton).**
 187. The safe from the Assembly Rooms was delivered to the Chapel on 4th December. The safe is already being used to securely store the burial records.
 188. A contract has been entered into with SDDC to ensure that the bins at the Cemetery are emptied on a weekly basis. The contract is of a short duration, ending on the Christmas week. A decision as to whether to extend the contract or to seek alternative methods of disposing of the waste generated at the Cemetery will be considered in the new year.
 189. The Clerk is to make a planning application for the removal of the Beech tree and for routine pruning of the Lime Tree at the Old Burial Ground. The planning application is necessary as the Old Burial Ground falls within the Conservation Area. There will be no viability test carried out on the Beech tree as the cost of the test was deemed prohibitive. The Parish Council at its meeting held 3rd December, considered the quotes for the work on the beech trees, with a decision being made to accept the cheaper quotation.
 190. The Five Year Plan is to be put on hold due to financial constraints.
 191. A request has been received from a resident to have a memorial bench sited within the Cemetery. A suitable location has been identified; the Clerk will inform the relative that permission is granted to site a bench, but the bench must be maintained by the relative(s).
- 7:07pm Cllr Carpenter arrived.
192. Cllr Hicklin reported an allegation of theft of pots from a grave; the allegation being made by a relative. Discussions with the Sexton suggest that the pots may have moved during bad weather. In light of no evidence, the matter will be monitored.
 193. During the storm on 5th December, a Cedar tree in the Cemetery blew over. There was no damage and the tree snapped at the base; the result being no need for any remedial works to be carried out. A conifer tree also split in the centre during the storm. An inspection by Melbourne Tree Services reported that the tree is unsafe

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and recommended that it is felled. Arrangements have been made for the tree to be felled on 10th December.

194. Cllr Hicklin reported that a long standing dispute within a local family has now extended to include a dispute over the recent restoration of a family member's headstone. The recent upset involved the restoration of a headstone by a party who are not legally responsible for the grave of headstone. A discussion took place as to whether there was any duty owed by the Parish Council to the grave owners to prevent any work being carried out by non-owners and the discussion expanded to consider if there are obligations on the Parish Council to check whether any work carried out on the graves and memorials were done by the legal owner. AGREED this is a family dispute and as such the Parish Council will not become involved, but a letter will be sent to all stone masons requesting that they ensure that their client has the legal right to carry out any work (**Action: Clerk**)
195. The Old Burial Ground would benefit greatly from a 5-10 year maintenance programme. AGREED to arrange a meeting with the Vicar, Mark Powell, in order to agree a plan and funding of necessary work.

Date of next meeting: to be advised

There being no further matters, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.28pm.

Burial Committee -Cllr S Hicklin Chairman