

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 7.30pm Monday 13th January 2014 at the Shone Lounge, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, Melbourne

Present – Cllr Hicklin (Chairman), Butler, Carpenter, Sharp, Stockill, Clerk
In attendance – Cllr Smith

Apologies: None received

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

196. Cllr Carpenter reported that the documentation of the procedures at the Burial Ground is in hand. **(Action: Cllr Carpenter, Cllr Hicklin and Sexton).**
197. The Parish Council at its meeting held 7th January 2014, requested that the Burial Committee re-visited its decision for additional bins in the Cemetery. The Sexton has been unable to find a suitable location for a composting scheme and the Committee considered that as the Cemetery is well maintained, the introduction of a composting area could be detrimental to its appearance. It was noted that the provision of additional bins has been included in the Budget for 2014/15.
RESOLVED: to recommend that additional bins are installed at the Cemetery.
198. The Beech tree, Old Burial Ground. Following the decision at the Full Parish Council meeting held 7th January 2014; Melbourne Tree Services has been instructed twice to remove the tree, once in an email dated 8th January and in a phone message on 10th Jan. The Clerk updated the Committee on the advice received from ICCM; namely that only major works on consecrated land require a Faculty from the Diocese, the removal of the tree could be viewed as maintenance work and if so viewed, would not require a Faculty. The Committee was mindful of the requirement of the Burial Act 1857, which requires any works on consecrated land to be respectful of the dead and not to be irreverent. This will be passed onto Melbourne Tree Services.
RESOLVED: for the tree to be removed and to advise the Diocese of its removal. No application will be made to the Diocese.
199. The Five Year Plan is on hold.
200. A suitable location has been identified for a memorial bench; the Clerk will inform the relative that permission is granted to site a bench which must be maintained; if it falls into a state of disrepair then the bench will be removed on H&S grounds.
201. Cllr Hicklin reported that nothing further has been heard following an allegation of theft of pots from a grave at the end of 2013.
202. Cllr Hicklin reported that a long standing family dispute over the maintenance of a grave as reported at the last Burial Committee meeting appears to have been

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settled. The Committee reiterated that this is a family matter and the Parish Council will not become involved.

203. Following a request to the Vicar for financial assistance with the maintenance of the Old Burial Ground, the Vicar has emailed to advise about the extent of control that the Church retains over the Old Burial Ground. The matter was discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2014 along with a discussion as to whether the Parish Council wishes to retain responsibility for the maintenance of the Old Burial Ground and referred the matter back to the Burial Committee for consideration. According to DALC legal advice note and verbal advice from ICCM, the Parish Council is unable to pass over the responsibility for the maintenance of the Old Burial Ground without negotiation with SDDC (as the body who would then be the responsible body).

RESOLVED It was unlikely that SDDC would accept any such transfer of responsibility and therefore no action will be taken at present, but to await any response to the removal of the Beech tree.

Date of next meeting: to be advised

There being no further matters, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

Burial Committee -Cllr S Hicklin Chairman