

## **LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on Friday 16 June 2017 in St Margaret's Chapel, Lyndhurst Cemetery at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors A Wiltshire (Chairman), Mr M Rollé, Mrs F Green, Mrs A Trend and Dr P Burrows

**In Attendance:** Mrs M Weston (Clerk to the Council)  
Mr R Green (in an advisory capacity)

### **1. Election of Chairman**

The Clerk asked for nominations for the post of Chairman of the Cemetery Committee for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED:** That, having indicated that he was willing to stand for election to the post, Mr Wiltshire be appointed Chairman of the Cemetery Committee for the year commencing 1 May 2017.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from the Revd Dr C Wilkins.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on 24 March 2017, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

### **5. Matters Arising**

Councillor Burrows enquired whether a quotation had been received from Sheila Davis regarding the stained glass window. The Chairman stated that it would cost in the region of £3,000 to change one of the small round windows to stained glass and he considered this to be too high a cost at the present time. Councillor Burrows asked that the quotation be distributed to all Committee members.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman provide a copy of the estimate which the Clerk would email to Committee members.

Discussion took place regarding the insurance value for the Chapel and Richard Green said he considered £250,000 to be a realistic sum.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk increase the sum the Chapel was insured for to £250,000.

### **6. Cemetery Fees**

Discussion took place regarding the fact that some authorities did not charge any Cemetery fees for children. Lyndhurst Parish Council did not charge fees up to the age of 12 but 18 was considered more appropriate.

**RESOLVED:** That Cemetery fees would not be charged with regard to use of the Cemetery in connection with children up to 18 years of age.

## **7. Toilet Facilities**

The Chairman reported that he had explored the idea of using a composting toilet at the Cemetery but did not feel this would be a satisfactory arrangement. He considered that a septic tank would be more suitable and the toilet facility would only be unlocked during services. Councillor Trend stated that the Cemetery was consecrated ground and therefore a faculty would be required from the Bishop of Winchester. It was considered that Building Regulations would also need to be sought. Mr Green estimated a cost of £10,000-£15,000 to provide a suitable facility. Electricity could be taken from the Chapel to both the toilet and shed and CCTV could also be added. Councillors looked round the Cemetery for a suitable site for a toilet with the following voting taking place:

Site near maintenance shed	-	1 in favour, 4 against
Chapel extension	-	3 in favour, 2 against
Near the lych gate	-	4 in favour (subject to viability study), 1 against

## **8. Land in Mitigation**

It was noted that the Cemetery would eventually be full and steps would need to be taken, if the facility was to be maintained in Lyndhurst, to provide further land. Although land could be purchased elsewhere and another Cemetery opened, it would seem more appropriate to extend the existing Cemetery if this was possible. This would involve using open Forest land and it was understood that negotiations would have to take place with the Forestry Commission and would involve the Parish Council providing land in mitigation that could revert to open forest land.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Land Agent at the Forestry Commission to ascertain the likelihood of further land being granted and the steps that would have to be taken to secure the land.

## **9. Shrub Planting**

The Chairman showed Councillors the work that had taken place to provide a larger shed and suggested that yew trees be purchased at an approximate cost of £30.00 each to act as a screen for the shed. The idea was mooted that panelling or rendering might provide a more appropriate cover.

**RESOLVED:** That Richard Green give the Committee an estimate for the cost of panelling and rendering in order that a decision could be made on the way forward. The Chairman would also consult with the Tree Officer at the NFNPA with regard to the best size of Yew tree to purchase in order to ensure the optimum chance of survival.

## **10. Any other business to take forward to the next Cemetery Committee Meeting**

Discussion took place around the possibility of providing CCTV to the Cemetery and Councillor Rollé agreed to discuss this with Steven Gibbs from Winsor Cameras who provided CCTV for the Recreation Ground.

The possibility of having the bell tower rebuilt and the bell reinstated was discussed and it was agreed that it would be necessary to ask a structural engineer to provide details.

In the absence of any other business the Cemetery Committee Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_