

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2016**

PRESENT: Cllr. Clifford (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Fairweather and Goodchild

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Cook

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

24/15: Issues from January Minutes:

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Bunyan for standing in for him during his recent bout of ill health. The Chairman then went through the Minutes to ascertain whether all the issues raised had been dealt with. The Parish Warden had offered to put shelving into the container at Golford rather than purchasing metal shelving. It was agreed to look at the paths and tarmac turning circle at Golford at the annual site visit in July. Cllr. Cook is talking to the PCC about the possibility of a wild flower area at St. Dunstan's. The issue with the cremation tablets in the new area at Sissinghurst has been resolved. With regard to the survey of Vestry Hall Cottage, the works coming under the landlord's responsibility has been undertaken by Hurstway and Cllr. Clifford offered to carry out a further inspection of the Cottage and discuss the issues which were identified as the tenant's responsibility. The heating system in the Information Centre had been attended and the problem solved. With regard to the village map at Sissinghurst, the problem still existed and it was agreed to ask Iden Signs to carry out a site visit and give advice. Cllr. Bunyan stated that the noticeboard outside the Vestry Hall had a new backing put in but the putty had not been renewed. The Clerk confirmed that Hurstway were only asked to put a new back to the board and solve the condensation problem. This was now much improved. The Clerk agreed to speak to Cranbrook in Bloom to ascertain their plans for the BT kiosks.

25/15: Issues from Inspections of Burial Grounds:

a) Golford Cemetery:

Cllr. Clifford stated that the Cemetery is in good order. He thanked the Parish Warden, Ivor Hatcher for liaising with the contractors. The Clerk informed Members that Isobel Ackery, the stained glass artist had visited The Chapel with a group of students.

b) St. Dunstan's Churchyard:

The Chairman informed Members that Cllr. Cook is speaking to the PCC and the Vicar regarding the proposal for a wild flower area on the left hand side of the Churchyard. Generally the Churchyard is in good order. Cllr. Goodchild stated that there was a lot of rubbish around the magnolia tree. He was disappointed to see that the Church Clock has been deliberately stopped whilst the scaffolding was up. Cllr. Clifford suggested that he spoke to the Vicar on this subject.

c) Sissinghurst Cemetery:

The Chairman confirmed that the fencing has been erected between the new development on the former school site and the Cemetery at the expense of the developer. Cllr. Fairweather mentioned that the area to the right of the access road is very roughly finished. It was agreed to monitor.

d) Cranbrook & Sissinghurst War Memorials:

Cllr. Clifford stated there were no items to bring forward to Members. They both look in good order.

26/15: Issues from Inspection of Properties:

a) Angley Cottage:

Cllr. Bunyan had no issues to report regarding Angley Cottage.

b) Vestry Hall:

The Clerk confirmed that the cast iron gutter and slipped tiles had been attended to. There was no other items outstanding. All was in good order.

c) Vestry Hall Cottage:

The Chairman stated that there were no other issues at present other than the inspection to be arranged following on from the surveyors report.

d) Information Centre:

The Clerk reported that the repairs to the flat roof were still outstanding and she would chase this up. Following the repairs, the staff toilet would need redecoration.

27/15: Noticeboards and Shelters:

Cllr. Bunyan informed Members that the scaffold was up around the Village Sign in Sissinghurst and Jan Ashton was carrying out repairs but had stated that part of the sign was rotting. A discussion took place and it was agreed to monitor the situation and add to the five year plan. We had received a complaint that the metal bus shelters were dirty, Reflections agreed to wash them off which was gratefully received by the complainant.

28/15: Benches & Cycle Racks:

The Clerk reported that one of the memorial benches was now in situ in St. Dunstan's – Monica Camburn. The other bench for St. Dunstan's – John Hooper was awaiting installation. The bench in memory of Philip Marley was in situ in the Ball Field. We had one bench vandalised on the pathway by the dentist surgery which had been repaired by the Parish Warden. No issues had been raised regarding the cycle racks.

29/15: BT Telephone Kiosks:

A parishioner from Sissinghurst had raised the question of accessible defibrillators and a full discussion took place on whether the kiosks could be used to house a defibrillator. It was considered that this could attract vandalism and also there would be no power supply. Cllr. Fairweather offered to speak to The Milk House at Sissinghurst to see whether they would be willing to have a machine on the outside wall of the property. Cranbrook in Bloom had already shown an interest in decorating the kiosk at Bakers Cross with floral displays which would be an attractive gateway into Cranbrook.

30/15: Items for Information:

No items were raised.