

MTC Burial Committee 14.10.20

Report No 1 New cemetery layout

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To plan the layout of the new part of the cemetery so it is tidy and efficient.
- 1.2 To plan where family graves are placed to minimise disruption to other graves.
- 1.3 To plan where cremated remains are placed in the cemetery
- 1.4 To look forward to planning out for the next few years in the cemetery.

2. Background

- 2.1 The graves have been dug in a way that is not always tidy and symmetrical.
- 2.2 In the last area of the new cemetery plots were 1.4m from centre of plot to the next plot. In the new area so far, they have been dug 1.5m from centre to centre. Previously plots were 8 feet long with a foot for the head stone. Now they are to be 11 feet long on the current plan. The headstones are now set on 'virgin' soil to minimise any movement. The new distance will mean 2 or possibly 3 less graves on each row and losing 2 rows in each section.
- 2.3 The gravediggers are now using more mechanical equipment to dig the graves and need additional space to get around as the soil is poor and hard to dig.
- 2.4 The gravediggers have in the past laid a sheet of plywood over other graves when digging a second grave in a family plot. This is not acceptable as damage can be done to the graves and grass as well as being disrespectful and causing upset to the surviving relatives.
- 2.5 Some cremation plots have been prepared in advance with slabs marking where future cremated remains are to be laid.
- 2.6 Alongside to the school hedge fresh soil has been laid and in some places is on the fence. This area is awaiting preparation for grass seeding.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 That each plot is clearly marked with a marker plate that will in the future will be where the headstones will go. This will enable the grave diggers to accurately prepare the ground for the foreseeable future. This relates to burials and cremated remains. Slabs from the new grave are then to be laid on the next row as marker for that row and the resulting hole is for the headstone to be sited by stone masons.
- 3.2 That identifiable family graves are, where possible, placed alongside the paths or where they will not affect other graves.
- 3.3 The grave digger be instructed to find a method of not putting the dug soil on top of the neighbouring graves by way of a platform or wheeling soil away safely using planks to protect the grounds.
- 3.4 That if the committee agrees, we authorise funds from existing budgets for purchasing the headstone bases.
- 3.5 The swathe of new soil area be prepared and seeded, repairing any damage to the fence as needed. This area to then be prepared for cremated remains.
- 3.6 That if agreed the committee agrees to taking action now.

4. Financial & Staff implications

- 4.1 Purchasing the marker slabs will come from current budgets set for the cemetery.
We would also need to allow time for Shaun and Graham to dig in and set the 30 grave markers, and initially 14 cremated remains so that they can continue to cut the grass.
- 4.2 Quote received for £960.00 for marble markers – 4 each Q, R, S & T
- 4.3 Quote received for £408.00 for 34 x slabs 3ft x 2ft x 2inches thick

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the proposals are agreed and actions taken.

Cllr Paul Smith