

A MEETING OF THE WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT-

Councillor Mary Clark (Acting Chairman)
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor John Hamblin
Councillor John Mattinson
Councillor George Girvan
Councillor Tony Huntington
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor William Marrs

Also in attendance was:

Luke Leathers from the Cumberland Council
Councillor Elaine Lynch – Cumberland Councillor
A member of the public.

WBJC/34/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Councillor Scott

WBJC/35/2024 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD

To agree the minutes of 31st July 2024 – it was requested that under entrance improvements the month of completion should be changed from September to October. These minutes will be signed off at the next meeting.

WBJC/36/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NONE

WBJC/37/2024 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Pursuant to the section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of agenda item 9.

Public and press were excluded from agenda item 11.

WBJC/38/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public was present and spoke about his dissatisfaction with the grave digging in Wigton. They explained that they had some experience with grave digging so wanted to highlight that other cemeteries do not suffer from the same issues.

The chairman decided to move item agenda 6 to this part of the meeting.

WBJC/39/2024 GRAVE DIGGING ISSUES

The chairman mirrored everyone's concerns in relation to how many graves sink after they have been filled. It was stated that many members of the WBJC check graves after funerals to check for any sinking and recently had already observed several graves that would require backfilling.

Luke Leathers (LL) listened to the member of the public and the committee and provided some suggestions to improve the quality of the grave digging including updating the rules and regulations that were initially drawn up by Allerdale Borough Council. It was also suggested that the WBJC could review the terms and conditions and look at the service level agreement, so expectations are clear.

LL mentioned he would send an example of the bereavement services specification/standards and a copy of the Code of Safe Working Practice for the WBJC to review. It was also suggested that the WBJC contact the head of Tivoli for the Wigton area to look at rewriting the agreement together and potentially including regular inspections into the agreement.

ACTION – Councillors Girvan, Clark and EI (clerk) will meet with LL and the head of Tivoli for our area to rewrite the agreement using the existing CC standards and ICCM requirements after the committee review the documents in November.

WBJC/39/2024 FINANCE MATTERS

6.1 To review estimated expenditure and earmarked funds

The clerk provided members with a draft budget which included estimated expenditure up to 31st March 2025 and earmarked reserves. Members then discussed the document making several changes.

6.2 Members discussed the 2025/2026 budget making changes

6.3 A list of regular payments were presented to the committee for members to approve. This allows payments from the businesses on the list to be paid without taking to the full council for approval.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously agreed to settle any invoice received by:
Solway Ground LTD
Tivoli

WBJC/40/2024 ACTION PLAN

Everyone was reminded that the action plan should still be used to record actions and reviewed every meeting.

WBJC/42/2024 ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Members were advised that the work should be starting around the 22nd October 2024.

ACTIONS

Clerk to inform the house tenants through Your Move, funeral directors and Bereavement Services in case of any funerals during this time.

WBJC/43/2024 HEADSTONE REPAIRS

Cllr Girvan reported that 14 out of 21 headstones have been repaired and there are a further 3 that will need to be repaired taking the total to fix, 24.

WBJC/44/2024 CEMETERY ESTATE

10.1 Cllr Clark shared what winter maintenance was required including the usual path edgings and shrubs being pruned but with the mild weather there would still be one more cut and strim required. It was also noted that the hedge near the cemetery house is dead so this will require some attention. The winter maintenance will also include a collection in early December.