



Fulford

Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Committee of Fulford Parish Council
held at 13:30 on Friday 18 October 2024
in The Old Library, Fulford Social Hall, School Lane, Fulford, York.**

Present: Cllr. Simon Marsh (Chair); Cllr. Mary Urmston; Stuart McCabe (Cemetery Superintendent); Cllr. Kate Ravilious (Ward Councillor); Pauline Stuchfield (Director of Housing and Communities, City of York Council); Dawn Shaw (Finance Officer, City of York Council); Kate Haigh (Assistant Bereavement Services Manager, City of York Council) and the Clerk.

24128. Chair's welcome.

Cllr. Marsh as Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and initiated introductions.

24129. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from and reasons approved for Cllr. Walker.

24130. To receive any declarations of interest.

Stuart McCabe (SMc) declared a pecuniary interest in Item 24134.e. by virtue of his employment at the Cemetery.

24131. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Committee of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2024.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Committee of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2024 were approved as a true record.

24132. To receive and consider Parishioners' Questions:

There were no members of the public present and no parishioners' questions to consider.

24133. To consider exclusion of the press and public from the discussion of any aspect of items 24134 by virtue of s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the discussion of any aspect of items 24134 by virtue of s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

24134. To receive any update on the review of the 2024/2025 Cemetery budget, fees and proposals for a three-year recovery plan and decide on any necessary action.

a. Net Position with Forecast to Year End

It was noted that the 10% increase in fees agreed at the last meeting may reduce the projected year end deficit by circa. £7,500.

b. Fees

The fee structure was given further consideration, and it was agreed that a simplified structure may provide better clarity for funeral directors and bereaved families and make the option for burials at

Fulford Cemetery more accessible. It was agreed that it would be helpful to consult Funeral Directors for their feedback on fees and burial services. It was **RESOLVED** to have one scale of fees across the board in line with those previously applicable for York (non-Fulford) residents.

It was further **RESOLVED** to update the fees for Double Plots (side by side) to reduce the second, neighbouring plot purchase by 5% and a third or fourth neighbouring plot by 10%.

Consideration was also given to options for multiple pre-purchase of plots, particularly for faith groups and it was **RESOLVED** that a 20% reduction would be offered for each purchase of five neighbouring plots. It was **RESOLVED** that the Muslim and Jewish communities would be informed of this new option and consulted for their views.

It was **RESOLVED** that from 18 October 2024, pre-purchased plots would be non-refundable and this would be made clear at the point of purchase.

It was **RESOLVED** that no further increase in fees would be implemented at this point but would be reviewed alongside preparations for the 2025/2026 Budget.

c. Cemetery Lodge Valuation:

It was **NOTED** that one valuation had been received from Ashtons. PS advised that CYC could not have any involvement in decisions relating to the sale of Parish property and it was confirmed that this would be a matter for the Parish Council to consider.

d. Alternative Income Streams

Solar Panels: It was **NOTED** That leasing of land for solar panels usually requires a minimum of 5 acres and the maximum that could be generated from a solar panels lease would be in the region of £5,000.

Pet Cemetery: It was **NOTED** that there is no local pet cemetery and this may be a possible new source of income for the future but would not aid the current in year deficit.

Pre-Sale of Multiple Plots: Recorded in the Minutes at Item 24134.b

Garden of Remembrance: It was **NOTED** that ICCM had suggested this possible source of additional income. It was further **NOTED** that it would require a degree of additional maintenance and may generate a little extra income from the sale of plaques. It was agreed that it could be considered in the future but would not aid the current situation.

Having declared a pecuniary interest, SMc left the meeting for the discussion of Item 24134.e.

e. HR Matters

Options were considered and it was **NOTED** that the CYC Head of HR was willing to meet to assist with any necessary processes and would be available to meet in 2 weeks. PS agreed to liaise between HR and the Clerk to set up the meeting.

A course of action was **RESOLVED**.

SMc was invited to return to the meeting.

f. Letter to MPs

It was **NOTED** that letters had been sent to Rachael Maskell MP and Luke Charters MP on 30 September. No response has yet been received.

g. ICCM

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had spoken with Mat Crawley, the Deputy Chief Executive of ICCM who had recently published his PHD on “UKRI Policy Support Fund: The future of critical public health deathcare infrastructure in England and Wales” and is very aware the change in trends towards unattended cremations which he believes is likely to continue. It was further **NOTED** that ICCM is working with the Law Commission on moves towards regulating the industry, but they aren’t aware of any proposals to assist local authority burial authorities with income losses caused by new cremation business models.

24135. To consider recommendations for future committee membership to the Parish Council.

Deferred until the next meeting.

24136. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting.

The date and time of the next meeting will be set after discussions with CYC HR have taken place.

The Chair closed the meeting at 15:01

Signed _____
Chair of the Cemetery Committee