

The Cemetery Lodge Fordlands Road York

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Committee of Fulford Parish Council held at 13:30 on Wednesday 25 September 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); Laura Williams (Assistant Director of Customer, Communities and Inclusion at City of York Council); Dawn Shaw (Finance Officer at City of York Council) and the Clerk.

#### 24118. Chair's welcome.

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

### 24119. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from and reasons for absence approved for Pauline Stuchfield and Gary Fewkes. Apologies for absence were also received from Kate Haigh and David Walker.

#### 24120. To receive any declarations of interest.

Stuart McCabe (SMc) declared a pecuniary interest in Items 24124 and 24125 by virtue of his employment at the Cemetery. Laura Williams (LW) and Rachel Robinson (RR) declared personal connection as family members.

## 24121. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Committee of the Parish Council held on 13 March 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee of the Parish Council held on 13 March 2024 were approved as a true record. The Clerk will present printed minutes for signature at the next meeting.

### 24122. To receive and consider Parishioners' Questions:

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

# 24123. To consider exclusion of the press and public from the discussion of any aspect of items 24124 and 24125 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 24124 and 24125 by virtue of s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

# 24124. To review the 2024/2025 Cemetery Budget and Fees considering recent business challenges to formulate a plan for the remainder of this financial year and decide on any necessary action. It was RESOLVED to consider items 24124 and 24125 together.

24125. To consider proposals for a three-year recovery plan and decide on any necessary action. It was RESOLVED to implement a 10% increase in fees immediately with further review at the next committee meeting.

A plan of action to the next committee meeting was **RESOLVED** and it was **NOTED** that information about some changes at the Cemetery such as proposals for rewilding some areas and reduced mowing would be made public by way of the Parish newsletter.

24126. To consider consultation with the York Central and York Outer MPs to explore any national remedies to redress or mitigate local authority bereavement services lost income to new commercial entities.

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk has an appointment to speak to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Deputy Chief Executive to seek more information on the national picture.

It was **RESOLVED** to approach York Central and York Outer MPs to seek their assistance in exploring national mitigations for losses to the public sector caused by national changes in the bereavement services market from new commercial enterprises.

**24127.** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October at 13:30.

The Chair closed the meeting at 14:30.

SIGNED: Chair