

Haxby and Wigginton Joint Cemetery Committee

Minutes of a meeting of Haxby and Wigginton Joint Cemetery Committee held on 13 November 2023 at 6.30pm in the Oaken Grove Youth and Community Centre.

In attendance: Cllrs Tony Richardson (Chairman), Tony Fisher, John Gates, Peter Lakey, Ruth Pearson, 22 members of the public and the Haxby town clerk (Alan Draper).

C48 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chris Hogg.

RESOLVED to accept and approve the apology and reason for absence.

C49 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all councillors other than Cllr R Pearson to introduce themselves. Cllr R Pearson asked to introduce herself as a member of the committee.

C50 Declarations of interest

Cllr Richardson declared an interest in that he owns three graves/plots.

C51 Public question time and participation

Several members of the public made comments regarding the recent 'topple testing' as follows:

- Lots of people are angry. It is disrespectful.
- The headstones should have been laid face up not face down.
- The headstones should be reinstated at the cemetery's cost.
- The headstones should have been taped off not laid down.
- The communication was poor.
- Poor workmanship may have been the cause of wobbly headstones.
- It has caused a lot of upset and distress.
- A notice should have been placed on Facebook.
- The committee should put right this wrong.

The chairman confirmed that lessons have been learned and that the committee will review and decide its course of action later in the meeting.

RESOLVED to defer agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 to the next meeting.

C52 Letter head

RESOLVED that the Haxby town clerk design a letterhead for the committee.

C53 Exclusion of public and press

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw.

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

C54 Banking

Cllr Pearson reported that the bank mandate has been sent to Barclays. She also said that she felt bullied and harassed by the chairman.

C55 Recent burials / interments

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

C56 Ashes interment request

RESOLVED to approve the ashes interment request.

C57 Grass cutting contract

RESOLVED that the Haxby town clerk be authorised to draft a schedule of works and put the grass cutting contract out to tender.

C58 Complaints

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

C59 No confidence motion

RESOLVED that by a vote of four to one, the committee does not have confidence in its chairman.

C60 Matters pertaining to recent issues in the cemetery

a) Topple testing policy

RESOLVED that the Haxby town clerk will obtain a policy from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and report back accordingly.

b) Standard of workmanship

RESOLVED that the Haxby town clerk will obtain a policy from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and report back accordingly.

c) Possible reinstatement of headstones from the recent topple testing at the committee's expense

RESOLVED that the committee recommends that it pay for the reinstatement of the headstones concerned and that in accordance with the advice from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations the recommendation be referred to the two participating councils for their respective consideration.

d) Action(s) to assuage concerns regarding the recent topple testing

RESOLVED that the Haxby town clerk will send letters to those headstone owners for whom up to date contact details are known.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman