

## **Rothbury Joint Burial Committee**

### **Minutes of meeting to be held Thursday 27 March 2008 in the Jubilee Hall commencing 7.30pm**

#### **Those Present: -**

Coun. Sandford - Chairman, Rothbury PC  
Coun. Gutherson - Thropton PC  
Coun. Edes Coun. - Rothbury PC  
Coun. Reynalds - Rothbury PC  
Coun. Gaskin - Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst PC  
Coun. Monaghan - Whitton & Tosson PC

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Coun. Mrs Dawson - Rothbury PC  
Coun. Milburn - Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst PC

#### **Minutes of Meeting held 11/09/07**

Agreed as a true record.

#### **Minutes of Sub-Committee Meeting held 04/02/08** Agreed as a true record.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- 2 ashes, 15 burials to date y/e 31/3/08
- 62.5 hours worked for Rothbury Parish Council y/e 31/3/08
- Tree Report carried out by tree surgeon free of charge by Town & Country at Morpeth. Alistair said there are 83 trees in the cemetery with 9 requiring attention. Several only require limbs to be attended to with the majority needing attention by the sheds. Four are high priority and will require felling in the near future. A cost of £2300 has been given for two high priority fellings at the shed area. The works will be carried out over a period of time. Coun. Sandford proposed he would go over the report with Alistair and with budget considerations devise a plan of action. E-mail received from Frank Brown of the Golf Club, regarding a tree overhanging the access road to the Club. Coun. Edes said planning permission would need to be sought, however Coun. Monaghan commented if there is no TPO and it is outside of the conservation area this is not required. Coun. Monaghan asked what will happen to the wood once felled, Coun. Sandford said in the past the JBC have tried to sell wood, but when two previous trees were felled they were massive with a mass of wood, and the contractor agreed to remove it as it was too big for the JBC to cope with.
- Coun. Sandford said the area at the hospital was looked at as to whether replacement trees would be planted, and it was agreed they should be yew trees, Coun. Gaskin said below the cemetery there are individually slow growing yew bushes, and he has never witnessed rabbits touching these shrubs.
- Alistair reported seat works carried out over the winter, pathworks to be completed in the near future, and the skip is in place. The bin will be emptied fortnightly. Alistair to action sunken graves and wall works in the near future. External painting of cemetery lodge carried out. Coun. Sandford thanked Alistair for carrying out the lodge repairs.
- Coun. Sandford asked Alistair about the area that used to be a rubbish tip and appears untended - it has an air of untidiness and requires landscaping in some way. Alistair reported he had made a start on clearing rubbish away. Coun. Gaskin had looked at the area and said it requires smoothing, and yew trees could be placed there. Coun. Gaskin said if yews are bought in containers and staked in the ground, they can be planted at any time, however the ground will firstly need cleared.

#### **Final position on new road markings etc, to access to golf club**

Coun. Sandford reported an article in the Gazette was incorrect.

Finally there has been confirmation of what will happen, it will be simplistic, vehicles will have to follow directional signs, which in terms of public safety will be much improved. There will be 3 dedicated parking places for cemetery users. NCC are to write to the Golf Club Chairman and ask if they will please observe the changes. The 30mph sign has been moved further up the hill.

### **Review of Risk Assessment plan**

Alistair said the assessment needs reviewed when there is a change of circumstance, and maybe the tree side of things should be looked at - Coun. Milburn is the designated officer to look at this. Coun. Sandford thought the JBC should look at the risk and then make the assessment.

### **Progress on records being placed in alphabetical order, before eventual computerisation**

Coun. Monaghan has completed the first book, which is now on excel and requested the JBC purchase a back-up memory stick. The grave number, date of burial, name, occupation, place of death, reverend who officiated and person issuing the certificate are included in the records. Coun. Monaghan said if Alistair is asked for information about burials he will be able to use the computerised records to answer queries swiftly. Coun. Sandford wished to record thanks to everybody involved with this. Coun. Edes asked where the records for gravestones around All Saints Church would be, Coun. Reynolds replied the Record's Office. Coun. Sandford said leaning gravestones have not been discussed for a while, and should another survey be carried out, Alistair replied John Clark is to carry out another ten repairs and he will speak to John about this.

- Finance:**
- a) **Present balances:** Statement to end February £3500, precept due in April
  - b) **Re-chargeable hours worked by Alistair Gaskell:** Discussed earlier
  - c) **Increase of fees by 3%:** Alistair to action new rates
  - d) **Superintendents wage and rent increase:** 3%, rent to be increased by same amount as last year - £ 17 per month

### **Changes/Improvements members would like to see.**

• Coun. Gaskin asked if wrought iron railings around the gate entrance could be looked at, if the committee is ever in a position to afford it. Previously they did go from the wicket gate all the way up. Coun. Reynolds said it is an expensive operation, and they would have to be exact copies of the original, however nothing remains of the original, although there could be a photograph somewhere. Coun. Gaskin thought Mary Scott may have some pictures. Coun. Monaghan said occasionally funding bodies can provide money for such items. Coun. Sandford said it would fit into the niche of being a particular project, Coun. Gutherson thought Stephen Bridgett may know of sources of funding. Coun. Gaskin to look into the suggestion.

### **Date of next full meeting**

October 1st 2008.

### **Date of next sub-committee meeting - June 2008**