

Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

Minutes of meeting to be held Thursday 26 March 2009 in the Jubilee Hall commencing 730pm

Those Present

Coun. Sandford (Chair) -	Rothbury PC
Coun. Mrs Gutherson -	Thropton PC
Coun. Mrs Dawson -	Rothbury PC
Coun. Reynolds -	Rothbury PC
Coun. Gaskin -	Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst PC
Alistair Gaskell -	Cemetery Superintendent

Minutes of Meeting held 1/10/08

Agreed as a true record.

Minutes of Sub-Committee Meeting held 13/1/09

Agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising from previous minutes

Railings

Coun. Sandford reported £2125 had been donated from ADC towards railing works - cheapest quote received being £2280. Coun. Sandford wished to thank District Coun. Peter Dawson for organising the funding. Alistair to contact blacksmith and arrange works.

Yew Trees

Coun. Gaskin to purchase shrubs, and asked if he should pay for himself and then reclaim - it was agreed to initially ask if an invoice could be forwarded to JBC.

Lodge

A new radiator is required for the lodge kitchen at a cost of £1 08 and which Alistair's father has agreed to install.

The back yard concrete is badly broken up and requiring resurfacing which Alistair said he could flag himself - JBC to pay for stone.

Central Flowerbed

The box hedge has been planted, and rabbits are not yet bothering with it. Coun. Sandford said it is neat and sets the central garden off. Coun. Dawson agreed with these comments. Coun. Gaskin said it would grow approximately 6 inches.

Cemetery Course

Alistair had attended a burial seminar at the Community Council, and it was recommended a notice be erected stating some gravestones may be unsafe. Coun. Mrs Dawson agreed a notice should be placed on the entrance railings, Coun. Gaskin asked would this statement absolve the JBC from liability from falling stones, as he did not think it would. Coun. Sandford said if there was a mishap there is a recorded track record of rectifying leaning gravestones, Coun. Gaskin thought a visible but discreet notice, Alistair to organise a sign.

Re-valuation report

Correspondence received from Valuation Office regarding re-valuing land. Alistair said he was having trouble working out the square meterage of recently purchased land - clerk to check for information on deeds.

Computerised Records

Coun. Monaghan inputting data.

Superintendent's Report

Alistair reported 21 burials and 5 ashes this fly. 19 hours had been worked for Rothbury Parish Council since November - to be recharged at £8 per hour. Painting and gutter work had been carried out over the Winter, along with leaf clearance and a further waste basket should be acquired. Rabbit control is ongoing. Coun. Sandford said there is still public unrest over rabbit problems and should a pest control company be employed? Alistair said a company would place pellets down and block holes up, and thought the fee was in the region of £50, however there will still be rabbits entering the land - Alistair currently using an air rifle. Coun. Gutherson thought pest control should be reemployed, and it would be visible action for the general public to notice. It was agreed to contact the firm, and if the charge is in the region of £50 to employ them.

- Finance:**
- a). **Present balances:** End of February - £2500 balance, Coun. Sandford said there will be a surplus at year end
 - b). **Re-chargeable hours worked by Alistair Gaskell:** 19 hours at £8 to RPC
 - c). **Increase of fees by 3%:** Agreed.
 - d). **Superintendents wage and rent increase:** 3% and rent increase £17 per month
 - e). **Final year end statement 2002/09 & Budget 2009/10:** To be produced when final bank statement received.

Any further tree works 2009/10

£2300 spent on tree works 2008/09. Some existing trees do require limb removal, £500 to be budgeted for treeworks, Alistair to look over the tree report carried out.

Any further wall repairs 2009/10

Coun. Sandford said there is a corner part nearest to the hospital where a previous stretch had been repaired, and coping stone elsewhere requires attention. Alistair to arrange with previous contractor for estimate - £500 budgeted for this work.

Decision on any leaning gravestones 2009/10

No repairs carried out 2008/09, 10 stones to be actioned, with previous cost £30 per headstone. A provision of £500 budgeted. Alistair to speak to John Clark, Elsdon Memorials.

New mower - to be purchased 2011

Coun. Sandford suggested £1K be budgeted 2009/10 and any monies left over from this current year be ring fenced for the new mower. £5K required altogether.

Any Other Business

Coun. Sandford said changes have been made in the cemetery, and thought a 5-year plan should be adopted for future works/improvements, and would anybody wish to volunteer to work a schedule up. Coun. Reynolds thought ideas should be brought to the next full meeting. Coun. Gaskin thought the sub-committee meeting could initially discuss ideas on site, agreed.

Date of next full meeting - October 2009

Date of next sub-committee meeting - June 2009

C M Miller, Clerk
Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

ROTHBURY JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Forecast Expenditure/Income 2009/10

Expenditure

Wages & N.I	15900
Non Domestic Rates	388
Water & Sewage	375
Electricity	170
Insurance	1400
Telephone	250
Clerks Salary	575
Petrol	250
Equipment Servicing	300
Purchase Equipment	175
Repairs to Lodge	250
Miscellaneous	500
Grave Digging	150
Audit	250
VAT	600
Tree Works	500
Wall Repairs	500
Leaning Gravestones	500
New Mower *	3000
New Railings	2280
	28313

Income

	Budget 2009/10
Eees & Charges	8500
Precept	14500
Rothbury PC	400
VAT to reclaim	600
Grant for new railings	2125
	26125

* This is a provision to purchase a new mower in 2011 and the sum of £3000 includes £2000 from balance of y/e April 2009