

MINUTES OF STANWICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Date: 10th November 2022
Venue: Committee Room, Village Hall, Stanwick
Time: 7.15 p.m.
Present: Councillors:- N Peck (in the chair)
S Glanville-Hughes
S Kitchener
M Taylor
Clerk to the Council J Hodgson

22.98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Paterson, Partrick and Konstantinidis. It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the reasons for absence be approved.

22.99 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 29th September 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22.100 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

22.101 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

There were no members of the public present.

22.102 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

a. Update on the current consortium situation

The Council received a verbal report. The contract had ended on 31st October 2022 without North Northants Council tendering for a new contract or arranging for an interim contract to be in place. Turney Landscapes had agreed to continue working for two months whilst an interim contract to run from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 was put into place.

Members were appalled by the level of inaction by North Northants Council officers that had resulted in this situation.

b. Interim contract arrangements

It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council accept the interim contract proposal for a contract for one year starting 1st January 2023 at a cost of contract cost at 31st October 2022 plus 16% as the Council is of the opinion they have not been left any other option by North Northants Council.

c. Additional cost on the consortium contract 2021-22

It was agreed from the information received that an additional cost on the contract 2021-22 as part of the interim arrangements would not be due.

d. Specification to obtain an independent grounds maintenance contract quote

It was agreed that the Clerk would work with Councillor Taylor to produce a specification for an independent grounds maintenance contract. The draft specification would be referred to full Council for approval.

e. Period the grounds maintenance contract

This will be agreed prior to quotes being sought.

f. Potential terms of any future contract

These will be agreed prior to quotes being sought.

g. TUPE implications of changing contractors

It was noted that there may be TUPE obligations if the Council were to change to an independent contractor and professional advice should be sought as part of due diligence if it appeared likely that this would be the course of action taken.

22.103 CEMETERY

a. Site meeting (29/10/22)

The notes from the site meeting were reviewed. It was agreed that

- the moss to be treated on the gravel paths where moss was present, rather than a treatment of the whole path.
- Quotes for a crown lift to all trees around the perimeter to allow access and clearance should be obtained.

- A quote to sand and treat the notice board should be obtained
- The black bench is in a poor state of repair and efforts should be made to identify family members so that work can be undertaken
- Proposals for natural ashes area to the east of the lych gate between graves and hedges should be put together

b. 'Natural ashes burial area' proposal

The necessary enquiries and consultations should be undertaken for the Council to consider this further.

c. Reduction of environmental pollution at the cemetery

There was a discussion as to what steps the Parish Council should seek to take to reduce environmental pollution at the cemetery with particular reference to materials used to inter remains and used with floral tributes.

It was agreed that enquiries would be made with a local funeral director about materials used for burials and what could be achieved. It was also suggested that local florists could be contacted about the materials used to make tributes and to find out if there is a way of using more environmentally friendly materials. It would be useful to know the percentage of burials where embalming had been used. Cremated remains generally have pollutants such as metals removed by the Crematorium.

d. Empty plot exercise

The report identifying plots that had been purchased over 30 years ago but remained unused was noted. It was agreed that there should be a scheme attempt to make contact with owners to determine if the grave space is still required and if it could revert to the Council.

e. Future of burial provision

It was agreed that it was important to use the available opportunities in the cemetery to achieve maximum capacity. It was noted that all previous attempts to engage the adjoining land owner in a meaningful dialogue to purchase land to extend the cemetery had not been successful. It was also noted that there was not a legal duty for the Council to provide a burial facility and once the cemetery had reached capacity it could be the case that the opportunity to be buried in Stanwick would cease. It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the area designated in the original site plans for the burial of children in the quadrant to the east of the Lych gate should be marked out for full size graves. It was agreed that Pear Technologies should add this to our cemetery plans. It was agreed that the burial area should look to be extended when the patio area is redeveloped (see g. below) and by shortening some of the paths.

f. Location for future traditional ashes interments

It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the next location for the interment of ashes would be site 'B' as designated in the original site plans. It is expected that this would accommodate up to 50 ashes plots over the next two decades.

g. Area for quiet reflection

It was suggested redeveloping the patio and bench area as an area for quiet reflection. It would be appropriate to try and make contact with the family of Clive Lawrence, who the bench is dedicated to, prior to any work being undertaken.

h. Terms of memorial permits

It was agreed that the Council should consider reducing the period that memorial permits are issued in an effort to keep up to date contact details for the responsible owners and in cases where a memorial fails, when the permit has expired, the Parish Council can move or remove the headstone. Proposals will be considered at a future meeting.

i. Pre-purchasing burial plots

It was agreed that the Council should consider reducing the period that grave plots can be pre-purchased for with a suitable revised fee scale and options to renew/extend. This will provide the opportunity for graves to revert to the Council where they were no longer required. Proposals will be considered at a future meeting.

j. Items for medium term financial planning

It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the Council should budget for additional pea gravel to reinstate areas of path; felling of the Lombardy Poplar trees that are reaching the end of their life and redevelopment of the patio area,

k. General condition of the site

It was noted that steps were being taken to improve the biodiversity of the cemetery and a budget had already been set for this.

l. Longer term improvements for the site

There were no items identified at this time.

22.104 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on 17th November.

Meeting closed 8.20 pm

Chairman