

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL
CHURCHYARD AND BURIAL GROUND MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Churchyard and Burial Ground Management Sub-Committee was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th November 2007. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs M Thomas (Chairman), Mrs J Leary, Mr C Clegg, Mr R Atterwill. Also in attendance Mrs F LeBon (clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Burial Ground Sub Committee Meeting of 17th September 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

Mr Clegg proposed that these be signed as a true record of the meeting of the 17th September 2007. Mrs Leary seconded, all in favour.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 17th September 2007

Mrs Thomas reported that a working party had been to the churchyard and moved some of the felled branches, and that Mr Carrick had already taken some for the bonfire event. Mr Atterwill suggested the use of a chipper and then spreading the chippings underneath the yew. This was agreed and should full council agree the finance then the clerk is to arrange to hire this for one day, at a price of £50, for Thursday 15th November. Enquiries are also to be made to see if they will deliver at 9am.

5. To Agree on Areas Requiring Maintenance in the Churchyard

The clerk reported that the stonemason had been asked for a quotation to repair the two unstable memorial highlighted by the archdeacon's visit.

Mrs Leary advised that a report had been made about a stolen memorial cross.

Mr Atterwill advised that the bank at the bottom of the churchyard required clearing and if a strimmer was available this could possibly be done at the same time as the wood chipping. Norfolk County Council had been spoken to about the Mill Street widening project, and should the feasibility study recommend that the project should go ahead, there would still be nothing physical done in the next financial year as it takes approximately one year to negotiate a price for the compulsory purchase of land.

It was agreed that the high part of the wall, which is currently leaning into the road, should be taken down to the same height as the rest of the wall. This will require traffic management. Work on the west gate should not be attempted until the road widening scheme is agreed, and until then it should be stored as it is putting pressure on the pillars, which are already unstable.

The clerk reported that a final quote is awaited from Treecare to remove all the weed sycamores. It is hoped that Treecare will hold their original quote of £2400 to remove seven trees and it was thought that a further £800 would be charged for the other two sycamores. This would come out of the church wall contingency fund, on the basis that they are putting pressure on the wall.

6. To Open Tenders Received for Church Wall Repairs

One tender had been received for the partial repair of the church wall. This was opened and a quote of £17,860 plus vat received. It was agreed that this could not form part of the budget at present and Mrs Leary is to report this figure back to the PCC as they had raised concerns about the Parish Council's progress with the wall repairs.

7. To Agree on Areas Requiring Maintenance in the Burial Ground

Mrs Thomas reported that the side and back hedges of the Burial Ground required cutting. The clerk is to check whether this was part of the grass cutters contract. She also reported that the willow branches needed taking back.

Mr Atterwill reported that the grass is starting to encroach on the pathways and that an amount should be allowed in next year's budget for chemicals to stop this. A price should also be obtained from May Gurney for another pathway.

8. To Receive a Report on the Progress of the Memorial Garden in the Burial Ground

Mrs Thomas and Mr Atterwill have cut the area. This requires some tanalised timber (4 x 1 inch) and this is to be put forward to the full Parish Council.

The clerk recommended some regulations be put in place, such as consent being given to plant roses by the Parish Council and that maintenance should be at the discretion of the Council.

9. To Agree 2008/2009 Budget for Sub-Committee

Of the original £5000 contingency for the wall, the residual should be carried forward less the amount for the fencing and tree removal (approx £1160). £200 should be allocated for chemicals for control of grass in the burial ground and ivy in the church. £250 should also be set aside for memorial repairs.

10. Any Item to be reported for Full Parish Council

Finance for the woodchipper, tanalised timber and removal of weed sycamores.

11. Any Item to be reported for next meeting

None

12. Date & Time of Next Meeting

21st January 2008

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

_____ (Mrs Marilyn Thomas, Chairman) _____ Date