

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 18th June 2007. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs M Thomas (Chairman), Mr I Bone, 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 21st May 2007 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

The minutes were signed by Mrs Thomas as a true record of the meeting of 21st May 2007.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 21st May 2007

None

5. Churchyard Maintenance

a) To receive update on rabbit control in the churchyard

The clerk reported that negotiations had taken place with Walkers Land Management and as a result the quotation for rabbit control had been reduced from £505 to £425. This had been passed by the Parish Council and the contractor had been instructed to order in the materials and commence work as soon as possible. The clerk had also requested a quotation from the same contractor for the poisoning of ivy on the church wall.

b) To consider maintenance of church wall

The clerk acknowledged the letter received from the PCC that concern is growing over the church wall and they request it is made safe should no plans for repair be forthcoming in the near future. It was agreed to wait until the results of the Mill Street widening feasibility study before making any firm decisions.

Mr Bone reported that the panels for the Disabled Access project had been delivered suggesting work is soon to commence. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Friends of All Saints Church stating the following:

- That the Parish Council require a copy of the structural engineers report relating to the wall.
- The Parish Council require written confirmation that the Friends of All Saints Church will accept all liability for any damage done to the church wall as a result of erection of the disabled access ramp.
- That the Parish Council will not consider any acceptance of maintenance of the ramp until the legal status of the land is resolved.

Mrs Thomas opened the only tender received for fencing in the churchyard. The price quoted was £640 plus VAT and this is to be put before full Parish Council.

c) Faculty for tree felling

Mr Bone reported that there was yet no clarification as to who should pay for the faculty for tree felling, the Parish Council or the PCC. He suggested that the Parish Council could go ahead with the faculty and if the Registrar advises that the PCC is responsible for payment, then the PCC should pay back the Parish Council. Mr Atterwill suggested using some of the church wall contingency money to remove all problem trees. Mr Clegg is to do a survey and advise on all trees that require removal.

6. Burial Ground Maintenance

Mrs Thomas requested the clerk write to the grass cutting contractor and ask if it is possible to remove some branches from the willow tree as it is now right upon the graves. Also in the letter should be the request for the grass to be cut right up to the Middleton Avenue end of the Burial Ground.

7. To review Regulations and Fees and to Consider Amendments

It was agreed that the fees should stay as they currently are.

The following regulation amendments were considered:

- That the Exclusive Right of Burial should be for 100 years as opposed to 35.
- That there should be 24 inches between graves as opposed to 18.
- That a period of 18 months should be allowed between last interment and laying of a kerbset to allow for subsistence. The clerk is to obtain feedback from stonemasons as to the feasibility of this.

8. Garden of Remembrance in Churchyard

Mr Bone explained how the PCC intend on managing interments in the open part of the churchyard. To go to full Parish Council for a definitive decision.

9. Memorial Garden

Mrs Thomas and Mr Atterwill to mark the area out on 30th June at 9.30am.

10. Any Items to be considered and approved by full Parish Council

- Interments in open part of the churchyard
- Disabled Access liabilities.
- Purchase of notice board
- To appoint a fencing contractor

11. Any Item to be reported for next meeting

- To receive feedback from stonemasons and to agree regulation amendments

12. Date & Time of Next Meeting

16th July at 7.30pm

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm

_____ (Mrs Marilyn Thomas, Chairman) _____ Date