

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 21st August 2006. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs M Thomas (Chairman), Mr I Bone, Mrs J Leary, Mr E Broady, Mr R Atterwill and Mr C Clegg

1) Apologies for Absence

None

2) Declarations of Interest

Mr Atterwill declared a prejudicial interest in the grasscutting contract

3) Minutes of the Burial Ground Sub Committee Meeting of 4th July 2006 to be accepted, initialled and signed.

All in favour. Minutes were initialled and signed.

4) Matters Arising

Mr Clegg had received advice about maintenance to metalwork on the gates and tombs. It was advised that this be done with the gates in situ, rather than moving them, and that the correct procedure for restoration would be to shotblast and then coat with 5 coats of treatment. The approximate cost for this would be £1,500 - £1,800.

Mr Bone reported that he had made contact with the War Memorials Trust and they advised that the work required on the memorial needs to be done by professionals. Should the Parish Council be able to get the memorial listed, then a grant could be obtained for maintenance work, however, Mr Bone still felt that the work required was purely cosmetic.

Mr Bone had also contacted Bretts for advice on the table top tomb that is in need of repair and is still awaiting a reply. Mr Clegg felt that the cost for a new stone could be £1,000. The clerk is to write to the DAC to find out if any of the tombs are listed structures.

The Clerk advised that Tom Garland had recorded the inscriptions of the gravestones that are currently against the church wall. Mr Bone will speak to the PCC about applying for a faculty to get the stones reset.

5) Tree Report from Adrian Slater

Mr Clegg reported that Adrian Slater had advised that the yew trees will re-sprout and they should be pruned vigorously to about 5ft. The three sycamores against the church wall are only young trees yet already 30ft. in height. Mr Slater felt that the consequences of leaving these to grow would be disastrous as they have half the roots they should have due to their positioning next to the church wall and they should be removed as soon as possible. With regards to the sycamores that have collapsed the Rumpe tomb, Mr Slater felt that these should also be removed because they are destroying a part of the village's history. A rough costing for this removal work would be £200 per tree and that 5 of them would need to be removed. This had to be done professionally as they need to be cut down in stages.

Mr Bone requested that Mr Clegg obtain a written report from Mr Slater as a faculty would be required.

Mrs Thomas advised that the money would have to be in the precept for next year to do this work. Mr Atterwill added that a contractor with the correct insurance must be used.

The clerk is to obtain some quotes prior to the next meeting and request that any prices given are fixed for 12 months.

6) Churchyard Maintenance

a) Progress on Management Plan – Mr Atterwill advised that the Parish Council had not yet discussed the management plan and that this should be deferred until the next meeting.

b) Progress on Church Wall Repairs – Mrs Thomas reported that Breckland had confirmed that the church wall was a listed structure. Mr Atterwill felt that the wall should not be repaired as it would not solve cause an ongoing problem. Money should be spent 'once' and 'wisely' and Breckland should be contacted about how to repair a listed structure.

Mrs Thomas requested that the clerk write to the DAC to request a site meeting with Mrs Thomas and Mr Atterwill to ask their opinion on repairs.

Mr Atterwill reported that he had visited the site with a Highways Engineer. The clerk is to write to Mrs Floering-Blackman to try to re-open the file on widening the road in this area. Mr Atterwill advised that any repairs to the wall would include underpinning and proper foundations. He suggested that this could be done in sections over a five year period to spread the cost.

Mr Bone felt that, further to Mr Slater's report, a disaster management plan is needed in case the wall collapses prior to removal of the trees. This is because there would be several parties need to be informed immediately such as the police, insurance companies and someone to clear the rubble and stabilise the wall. Mr Clegg volunteered to be the primary contact for this task.

Mrs Thomas advised that Michael Wingate performed a complete survey of the wall in 2005. The clerk is to find this report, and also speak to Shipdham church to see who repaired their church wall when it collapsed.

Mr Thomas requested that this be a separate agenda item for the next meeting, and then it can be presented to the following PC meeting.

7) Burial Ground Maintenance

Mr Broady reported that the grass and hedges looked very tidy. The Kendall headstone had been erected and requested the clerk ensure that this had been done after the 12 month settling period.

The clerk is to write to the Barracks to find a contact for the Mallam grave as it requires maintenance. The clerk advised that further to the previous meeting a potential contact for the Plant grave had been found and that they would be contacted. It was also reported that the surround on the Townsend grave is larger than the actual plot.

The clerk is also to put a report in Link Up magazine about rubbish being dumped in the bin that should only be used for Burial Ground waste.

Mr Broady reported that the pathways are in a much better state and also requested permission to remove dead flowers from graves. This was granted.

Mr Atterwill asked if the trees inside the Burial Ground required pruning. Mrs Thomas answered that they did.

Mr Atterwill also advised that he had obtained a quote of £4,600 plus VAT from May Gurney for an additional pathway. However general feeling was that this would not be required yet.

8) Any items to be considered and approved by full Parish Council

Mr Atterwill advised the meeting that the process for setting next year's budget should begin and that this should be an ongoing agenda item between now and January.

Mr Clegg is to obtain a written estimate for shotblasting and treating the gates.

The clerk is to find out whether the painting of the gates can be done by people doing community service.

Mr Atterwill suggested taking down the gates until the wall is repaired, rather than hanging restored gates onto a wall in need of repair. The money saved on the gates could then be spent on the wall. The second gate is to be left until the Disables Access is finalised.

9) Any item to be reported for next meeting

- Church wall repairs
- Church wall disaster plan
- Tenders for tree removal to be opened
- 2007 budget setting

15. Date & time of next meeting

Monday 25th September at 7.30pm

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

_____ (Mrs Marilyn Thomas, Chairman) _____ Date