

Minutes of Eckington Parish Council meeting held remotely on Monday 20th July 2020 at 7pm

Attendance

Councillors- C Renwick (Chairman) P Allan, J Boyce, A Dye, J Kenyon, D Landall, O Gomez-Reaney, I Tagg, P Wheelhouse J Ridgway (7.20pm)

Others- R Bullimore (Clerk), R Hill (Assistant Clerk) 3 members of public, 1 representative from Dunn & Co

20/1190 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillors Archer (Holiday) C Hunt (illness) C Tite (family issue) Deffley and Harper (work)

20/1191 Public Speaking

Three members of the public attending to hear the outcome from the ongoing talks with the Council regarding the surround erected on their family cemetery plot. The family insist that they were not made aware of the cemetery rule of no surrounds in the lawn cemetery section by their Funeral Director and that they did not receive the list of rules with their Exclusive Right of Burial document.

20/1192 Amendments to Cemetery Fees

RESOLVED 20 year, extensions for Exclusive Rights of Burial (Deeds) to be made available. The fee for a 20-year extension will be half the cost of the pre-purchase grave fee. DEFERRED clarification of who qualifies for the resident fee, Assistant Clerk to research what other Council's say in their policies.

20/1193 Request for traditional section in the Cemetery

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the current Lawn Cemetery and the issues it faces with having surrounds/kerbstones. Members discussed the possibility of allowing kerbstones in the old section of the Cemetery which is in keeping with the graves in that section. Members also discussed having kerb sections or rows in the new Lawn Cemetery sections to allow more variety which would incur higher maintenance costs. RESOLVED No kerbstones to be allowed on new graves, but those with current surrounds may have permission to have a professionally made and installed kerb set. These must adhere to National Association of Memorial Masons code BS8415 and be installed by a BRAMM registered Memorial Mason. Any other persons interested in having kerbstones could be offered a place in the old section of the Cemetery, but a full plan of the cemetery is required before this is agreed. Maintenance costs and measurements of kerbstones to be considered at the next meeting. Assistant Clerk to contact all the Funeral Directors who carry out work at Eckington Cemetery to ensure that they are aware of the cemetery rules and that they are passing this information on to their customers before they purchase a plot.

RESOLVED to note Mrs White and her family thanked the Council for allowing her permission to install a kerb set on her husband's grave.

20/1194 Combining the Funeral Directors and Memorial Policies

RESOLVED a comprehensive set of rules is required for the cemetery. Assistant Clerk to meet with Dunn & Co to create new rules, regulations, and procedures documentation for consideration at the September Full Council meeting.

20/1195 Reopening of Community Buildings

Marsh Lane Community Hall is currently open to the Under 5's group who are doing their own cleaning and Covid-19 checks. RESOLVED to allow groups to start using Renishaw and Spinkhill Community Hall but they must provide their own PPE. Parish Council are to provide bins and hand sanitiser. Everyone must adhere to current government guidelines for cleaning, social distancing, and meeting in numbers.

RESOLVED delegated power given to the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman on when and how to open the community buildings.

20/1196 Lease of field next to Ida's Road Play Area

The County Council own the piece of land next to Ida's Road play area this in turn has been leased to the Learners Trust. The Parish Council and a separate small group of residents on the Castle Hill Estate are keen to turn this land into something more useful and improve the physical environment. The County Council are in discussion with the Learners Trust to ask if they will relinquish the lease for this piece of land RESOLVED to note the Parish Council would like to lease this land on behalf of the community. Further development on this site will be on hold until a lease has been signed.

20/1197 The purchase or repair of Cemetery Equipment

The Cemetery Supervisor has raised concerns about the condition of the tractor, it is making rattling sounds. There is damage to a hose under the ride on mower, staff were not able to say how the damage was caused. The hedge trimmer is damaged, and this is a health and safety risk so currently it cannot be used. RESOLVED Quotes to be obtained for repairs to the ride on mower, a price for new hedge trimmer and the condition of the tractor to be evaluated.

20/1198 Planning

RESOLVED to note no comments were made on planning application 20/00537/FL Application for change of use from greenbelt agricultural land to land used for the storage of plant, machinery, vehicles, and ancillary items MBP Surfacing Limited Rotherside Road Eckington.