

HALTWHISTLE & DISTRICT JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2018 IN ROOM 2, HALTWHISTLE LIBRARY

Present: Cllr A Sharp (Chair), Cllr E Walton, Cllr M Ridley, Cllr J Kendrew,
Cllr P Reed, Cllr E Rimmer, Cllr A Whitehead

Cemetery Keeper: Not present

Clerk: K. Little

15 Allotment Holders

Cllr Sharp welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Sowler
No replacement from Thirlwall Parish Council

Cllr Sharp proposed and seconded by Cllr Kendrew for Agenda Items 6.1 & 6.2 be brought forward

6. Allotments

To consider response to allotment holders

- 6.1 Correspondence received from 27 allotment holders (signed) protesting about the increase in allotment rents
- 6.2 J Chaters correspondence regarding rent increase and problems with rodents in the allotments

Cllr Sharp said he was happy for allotment holders to make comments but suggested one person as a spokesperson. S Bainbridge raised the following concerns

- Not happy about the allotment rents going up every year – no reason why the rents are continually going up
- No one from the allotments invited to attend the meeting when allotment rents discussed this year is was a 5% increase
- Paths are very muddy
- Dogs are allowed to run through the allotments
- Dog muck
- Suggestion of security gates
- Too much horse muck and grass cuttings left in the car park
- Hedges cut but prickly branches left lying
- Water leak – water leaking all winter
- Rats in the allotments – clerk to seek advice from NCC pest control

Councillor Ridley suggested someone from the allotments attend the meetings and names to be forwarded to the clerk. To agree future rent increases at next meeting

2. Minutes of Meeting held 21 March 2018 to agree

Proposal for the Minutes of Meeting held 21 March 2018 be agreed and signed as a true record.
Prop: Cllr Reed Sec: Cllr Sharp

The clerk reminded members that each agenda item should be very clear what you as a councillor are expected to do and be precise about the subject under discussion. The clerk also recommended training for councillors who were not clear on correct procedure.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, members to declare any Pecuniary Interests in items on this agenda – None declared

4. Exclusive Rights to be transferred

Proposed by Cllr Sharp to transfer Grave No 3497 to 3499 and 3499 to 3497

5. Complaint regarding soil dumped on graves – to consider response & action required

Cllr Sharp stated the soil had put in the corner as it is to be used for grave levelling. Cllr Ridley said it was a lesson learnt, and they have invested in matting which will prevent tracks over graves. Cllr Ridley went on to state that the cemetery plan showing graves under the soil was incorrect as he had looked at the burial register. Clerk to reply and apologise for any inconvenience caused

7. Correspondence

7.1 Plenmeller with Whitfield PC to consider whether to apply a discount and against what criteria – Cllr Sowler had supplied the following information:

Whitfield – 125 electors

Plenmeller – 50 electors

following a discussion, it was agreed a 25% discount based on the same criteria as Coanwood

7.2 Budget - reconsideration of budget increase – if not, how to resolve issue re Melkridge - defer

8. Training

To agree cost & date for digger operative training for cemetery keeper assistant & 2 employees from Hexham Cemetery – Cllr Walton advised digger training had been arranged to take place on Monday 14 May at Haltwhistle Cemetery for S Glenton and two employees from Hexham Cemetery. Clerk to forward an invoice for £363.68 to the Operations Manager at Hexham Cemetery. Metcalfe's invoice will be paid in full by H&DJBC

9. Request from cemetery staff to carry forward holidays from previous year

Request from cemetery keeper to carry forward 5 days and assistant cemetery keeper to carry forward 3 days. Holiday request was agreed, in future a request form to be submitted by cemetery staff.

Prop: Cllr Rimmer Sec: Cllr Reed

10. Date of next meeting

Site visit of the allotments at 10.45am Saturday 21 April