

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BURIAL GROUND AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 28th APRIL 2004 AT 7.30 p.m. AT PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present : Cllr Mr A Barnett (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mrs Y Coutts
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby

In attendance : Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
2 members of the public

Before the start of the meeting Members of the Committee had undertaken a visual inspection of the Hartley Burial Ground, Garden of the Remembrance and Closed Church Yard.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Burial Ground and Garden of Remembrance Committee held on 17th March 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Rules and regulations

(a) The Chairman of the Burial Ground and Garden of Remembrance Committee reported on a meeting with the families of the late P McClelland and J Morgan held in the Burial Ground on 5th April 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35 p.m.

Mr Morgan explained to the Committee the reasons why he wished to retain the decorative stones placed on the surface of the grave of the late J Morgan. The Committee explained that (1) the Council owed a duty of care to contractors working in the Burial Ground and members of the public visiting the Burial Ground and that the presence of decorative stones constituted a health and safety hazard and (2) the placing of decorative stones on graves contravened the Burial Authorities rules and regulations. Reluctantly Mr Morgan agreed to replace the stones with either peat or woodchips.

The meeting resumed at 7.50 p.m.

RESOLVED: That, the implementation of the Committee's decision taken at the previous meeting (minute item 8 a) requesting the removal of decorative stones from the grave of the late P McClelland be delayed to allow the Committee to hear the views of Mrs McClelland.

(b) At the last Council meeting, the Committee's recommendation to prohibit the purchase of graves for the interment of ashes had been withdrawn. The Committee reconsidered the matter and noted from the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2004 stated that the position of interment of ashes may be marked with a plaque. Some concern was expressed over the demand on remaining graves spaces in the Burial Ground, should it be permitted for graves to be purchased solely for the interment of ashes. The Committee considered whether it would be feasible to provide half sized plots in areas of the Burial Ground where, due to lack of space, it would not be possible to provide full sized plots.

RECOMMENDED: That, the rules and regulations be amended to read “full sized graves are not available for the interment of ashes”, as set out in appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

5. Health and Safety

(a) It was reported that S Gay had started repairs to the memorials.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

(b) It was reported that S Gay employs the Harrogate method of fixing memorials in the Burial Ground.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

6. New Garden of Remembrance

The Committee noted the amendment to its recommendation, agreed by the Council at its previous meeting, to limit the expenditure on the temporary fencing around the new Garden of Remembrance to £200 and to consider the construction a new wall in the draft budget for 2005/06.

The Committee estimated that the temporary fencing could be provided within the budgetary limit set by the Council. The Committee considered the design of the new wall to be constructed around the Garden of Remembrance. As flowers would not be permitted to be laid on the ground in the new Garden, the Committee considered how the placing of flowers could be accommodated within the design of the new wall.

RESOLVED: That, a specification for the installation of a temporary fencing around the new Garden of Remembrance be prepared.

7. Garden of Remembrance

(a) The Committee considered the condition of the footpath between the Burial Ground and the Closed Church yard.

RESOLVED: That, the condition of the footpath be brought to the attention of the Parochial Church Council with a view to installing a handrail.

(b) Paving slab repairs

RESOLVED: That, the matter be deferred.

8. Burial Ground

The Committee considered matters arising from the visual inspection undertaken before the start of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) action be taken to rectify the Cuddy memorial and grave which currently contravenes the rules and regulations and,

(2) arrangements be made for the graves of P M Taylor g. 466, M & R Pain g.433 (adjacent to the Unwin memorial g.429), D E M & C Horgan g.452, J & B J Doughty g.82 to be turfed and,

(3) enquiries be made as to when the kerbstone, temporarily removed from the grave of J M & L E Hillier g. 432, will be repositioned over the grave and

(4) the family of the late E V & M Robinson g.410 be contacted and asked to remove the concrete kerb and,

(5) the family of the late S A Shephard g.409 be contacted and asked to prune the rose bush planted on the grave and,

(6) enquiries be made with S Gay in respect of the memorials located on the grave of the late D E M & C Horgan g.452 and J H & A V Walden g.110 to

establish whether repairs have been completed in accordance with the agreed schedule of repairs.

9. Closed Church Yard

The Committee considered matters arising from the visual inspection undertaken before the start of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That, S Gay be asked to provide a quotation to reinstate the cross (currently laid flat on the ground) either on top of the memorial stone or adjacent to the grave of the late Helen Mary Houghton.

10. Correspondence

RESOLVED: That, ABA Information Sheet 26 April to June 2004 be received and noted.

11. Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century

RESOLVED: That, consideration of the consultation document “Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century” be deferred.

12. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 19th May 2004 at 6.30p.m. at the Manor Field, Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs J Hoad
The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road
Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8E L
Tel/fax no: 01474 709441

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Garden of Remembrance and the Burial Ground adjoining All Saints' Churchyard in Hartley are in the care and ownership of the Parish Council. It is the Council's desire that they shall be kept as places of beauty and comfort. A gardener tends the flower beds and grass cutting is carried out regularly.

Burial Ground

- Grave spaces can be marked with an engraved headstone only and may incorporate a vase. All headstones, which should be of naturally quarried or carved stone, should not exceed 3 feet or 900 mm in height or exceed 2' 6" in width. The remainder of the grave space will be turfed and no shrubs or trees are to be planted in the Burial Ground or within the grave space. The design and inscription on the headstone should be submitted to the Parish Council for approval.
- Some of the older graves have flower beds or even kerbstones for the really old ones. These are no longer permitted in accordance with the Council's policy which is for headstones only with a grass surround maintained by the Council.
- Until the new Burial Ground is ready for use, no reservations of graves will be allowed. The right of burial within the Burial Ground will be restricted to residents of Hartley or those who have had strong connections to the village in the past.
- ***Full sized graves are not available for the interment of ashes***

Garden of Remembrance

- The Garden of Remembrance is looked after by our gardener. Inside All Saints' Church in the chancel is the Book of Remembrance. Flowers in memory of loved ones will always be welcomed there or may be left on the plinth adjacent to the Garden, and must not be left in any part of the Garden.

The Council is conscious of the need to preserve the area as a place of quietness, dignity and beauty and is active in carrying out this policy.

Any matters concerning the Garden of Remembrance and the Burial Ground should be addressed to the Clerk to Hartley Parish Council at the address given.

**** proposed deletions/additions***

Approved by the Parish Council on 21 July 2000
Amendments approved by Council on 5th April 2004