

QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – 26 January 2023

The questions have been listed in the order they were received.

FROM:	QUESTION
Written question from Julie Newby	<p>I am writing to the Councillors of Hedon to request that the renewal of the cemetery pathways is considered at the next meeting, with a sense of urgency.</p> <p>The pathways in the cemetery are uneven, raised, worn and are cracked. They also have year round moss and algae growth.</p> <p>As a family we are regular visitors to the cemetery.</p> <p>We feel it is an unsafe place to visit alone, due to the trip hazards from the pathways.</p> <p>Our family doesn't feel safe visiting the cemetery in winter or in summer; in dry or damp conditions the paths are unsafe.</p> <p>I have wrote to the Council over ten years ago when my family member fell to high light this issue.</p> <p>The action taken (at that time) was that Counsellor. M. Bryant tried to clear the moss growth with a scouring machine and chemical treatment. This cost was borne by Cllr. Bryant.</p> <p>This undertaking didn't work, it just left circle gouges out of the moss growth on the paths.</p> <p>I fully understand that this plan of work would be expensive BUT it has been a job over looked year after year.</p> <p>The cemetery is not a safe place to visit. The trip hazards are not resolving themselves.</p> <p>If this work is not done there will be more people getting injured visiting the cemetery.</p> <p>Can you imagine a Vicar, coffin bearers ore a member of the funeral party slipping?</p> <p>Can I please ask you to consider this matter very urgently?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p><i>The cemetery pathways are in good condition generally, there are a few areas that currently need some attention and one area where the cement is heaving due to tree root growth. The pathways in the cemetery are regularly inspected and maintained by the Council's General Works Supervisor and work to address the identified areas will commence in the spring (as winter condition are not conducive to this type of work). The pathways are gritted as necessary, moss removed annually, leaves removed as often as possible, and other debris and detritus is cleared regularly.</i></p> <p><i>In the last 8 years the Council has only received reports of 2 incidents; one fall in icy conditions and one trip. No complaints have been received from Funeral Directors, other officials or visitors.</i></p> <p><i>The matter will be considered further at the next Property Committee meeting.</i></p>
From the floor	<p>Regarding Merrywick Hall why has no action been taken to enforce the planning decision.</p> <p><i>The Clerk is continuing to chase planning enforcement for an update. Cllr Dennis will also follow up the issue. Cllr Steel will also ask questions.</i></p>
From the floor	<p>Regarding a matter raised at a public participation session last year. External ashtrays on buildings around the town, what action was taken. Letters were sent to the public houses asking for cigarette ashtrays to be installed on the walls where smokers tended to congregate to alleviate the problem of cigarette butts being</p>

	<p>thrown on the ground.</p> <p><i>The Town Council would write to the landlords again but it has no power to enforce any action</i></p>
Cllr S Gallant	<p>Cllr Gallant summaries the Town Councils budget and Precept for 2023/24, he noted that the last 2 years saw no increase. This financial year has seen wages increase and the cost of living generally rise. The Council therefore took the decision to increase the precept by 3%, the budget will be balance with approximate £7-8k coming from reserves. The Council are satisfied that this is the best options given that inflation is approximately 10%.</p>
From the floor	<p>Regarding another matter raised at a public participation session last year. Parking on Westland and grassed areas, could the grass be reduced to widen road?</p> <p><i>The Clerk will refer back to see if there was any response from ERYC when this question was raised last summer.</i></p>
<p>Any question that does not receive an answer due to time pressures will be put on the relevant agenda for the next council committee meeting</p>	

KG/26.01.23