

Hedon Town Council
Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of
The Property Committee of the Hedon Town Council
Held in the Town Hall, St Augustine's Gate, Hedon
14th November 2024

Present: Cllr P Hinch in the Chair
Cllrs: C Billany, J Brindley, J Dennis, P Hinch, Mrs G Pocklington, Miss S Rommell and Mrs S Wright
Clerk: K Gray, (Town Clerk) C Addy (Assistant Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs: S Banks (illness), S Gallant (illness), D Storr (prior commitment) and D Thompson (illness)

Resolved: that apologies were accepted

2. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Property Committee of the Hedon Town Council held on 10 October 2024 were, agreed as being a correct record of the proceedings.

Resolved: that the minutes were, confirmed as a true record

3. Updates on the Minutes

3.1 Pigeons in the Belfry – the bell ringers arranged to clean the area in question as this also impacts on the bell ringers and Tower Tour visitors.

3.2 Merryman Garth tree have been replanted.

4. Declaration of Interests

4.1 It was agreed that any declaration of interest be dealt with at the time the relevant item was discussed.

4.2 There were no dispensations to be noted

5. To consider a request from Hedon Fitmums to plant a tree on Market Hill

Members discussed the proposed location but on balance decided there were enough trees in the area, especially with the beacon so close to the existing trees. It was agreed that the type of tree was to be suggested by Fit Mums along with another location.

Although Elsiegate was suggested it is prone bours of vandalism.

Resolved: that the Clerk would write to Fitmums and ask for an alternative location and the type of tree they intend to plant

6: To receive a report from and consider recommendation of the Cemetery Working Group

The Chairman referred to the report that has previously been circulated.

A matter regarding solid oak coffins was raise and it was agreed that the Clerk would look into the suggestion that the rules prohibited in the cemetery.

The Chairman referred to the near misses and the Duty of Care the Council had to employees and members of the public in the cemetery.

Items reviewed at the working group:

- First line of "Memorabilia" on page 9 would be revised, although this section saw minor changes following the near misses, it was noted that there should be no memorabilia on plots unless fixed/firmly secured on the headstone. It was previously agreed that for significant dates eg at Christmas wreath and floral displays would be allowed to remain for one month until February and then removed.

Hedon Town Council

- The Clerk confirmed that the wording for inscription on headstones would be authorised by the Town Clerk or Assistant Clerk, to ensure inappropriate inscriptions, eg profanity, discriminatory language or symbolism are not to be found within Hedon Cemetery.
- The Clerk also confirmed that the Council hold a register of approved Stonemasons who have the authority to work within Hedon Cemetery. This is the same criteria as any contractor who works for the Council would be expected to meet.
- Flower containers should be fixed to the headstone.
- Flowers in floristry water bags would be acceptable.
- Wreath should be pegged to the ground.
- No balloons.
- More signage suggested, a new larger noticeboard should be purchased to allow for more information to be displayed.
- Pictorial signage for those who have difficulty reading.
- Installation of a new large noticeboard and relocate the old board, allowing more information to be accommodated.
- Planting on plots was discussed at length at the working group. Neil Everingham explained the issues with planting near headstones and the potential to destabilise foundations. It was proposed that the cemetery rules maintain a no planting stance, no including bulbs, shrubs etc. A record vote was taken as part of these Minutes.
- A Memorial Garden was suggested, an area in cemetery for this, a defined area should be explored.
- The Cemetery Rules as amended would be published through all various Town Council channels, social media, website, newsletter, etc.
- Headstone height would remain as stipulated in the 2005 rules.
- The Chairman outline the process/methodology of his information gathering that fed into the report.
- Monumental plant holders would continue to be allowed on the plots as they are official monuments installed by stonemasons in accordance with aforementioned criteria.
- Volunteers would not be allowed to maintain the cemetery
- It was noted that there must be consistency. The exceptions to the rules that Council authorised historically cause difficulties moving forward. Any works in the cemetery require the permission of the Burial Authority and must be carried out by authorised stonemason and contractors. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk would continue to administer the cemetery rules
- The Clerk asked that all Councillors direct all questions about the cemetery to the office, to the Council Officers who undertake regular training in cemetery management and who's role is to implement those rules
- The Chairman apologies for the upset this has caused and the Council would send an official letter to those who have raised a complaint. Council would see wording at F&GP before posting.

Resolved: that the Council would allow memorabilia for significant dates (birthdays, anniversaries as per headstone, Christmas) such as Christmas wreaths and floral displays, would be allowed to remain on plots for one month, Christmas items would be removed at the beginning of February. Item must be non-breakable and securely firmly to the headstone.

Resolved: that flower containers should be fixed to the headstone, flowers in floristry water bags would be acceptable, wreath should be pegged to the ground, balloons are not acceptable.

Hedon Town Council

- Resolved:** that the Council would look at purchasing a large noticeboard, this would be considered at a future F&GP meeting.
- Resolved:** that the Council would maintain the rule that there would be no planting on plots.
- Resolved:** that the Council would explore a defined area for a Memorial Garden where planting would be allowed.
- Resolved:** that the Council would disseminate the Cemetery Rules as amended through various Council channels.
- Resolved:** that the Council would maintain headstone height would remain as stipulated in the 2005 rules.
- Resolved:** that the Council would remain open to the public at all times
- Resolved:** that the Council would confirm that the cemetery is a lawn cemetery
- Resolved:** that the Council would continue to allow monumental plant holders to be installed on plots as they are official monuments installed by stonemasons in accordance with aforementioned criteria.
- Resolved:** that the Council would not use volunteers to maintain the cemetery
- Resolved:** that the Council would send an official letter to those who have raised a complaint. Council would see wording at F&GP before posting.

7. Correspondence

7.1 no correspondence

8. Members' points of information and items for the agenda

8.1 An Ash tree overhanging Farbridge Lane/Love Lane would be discussed at the next property committee agenda. Cllr Goldspink was asked for a photograph of the tree to be sent to the office.

.....
Chairman of Property Committee

RECORDED VOTE

Meeting:	PROPERTY COMMITTEE		
Date:	14 November 2024		
Recorded Vote Requested By:	Cllr J Brindley		
Proposal:	That the Council would maintain in the Cemetery Rules of no planting of bulbs, shrubs or plans on cemetery plots in Hedon Cemetery		
	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllr S Banks			Absent
Cllr C Billany	✓		
Cllr J Brindley		✓	
Cllr J Dennis	✓		
Cllr S Gallant			Absent
Cllr B Goldspink			✓
Cllr P Hinch	✓		
Cllr G Pocklington	✓		
Cllr S Rommell		✓	
Cllr D Storr			Absent
Cllr D Thompson			Absent
Cllr S Wright	✓		