



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## Notes

### Cemeteries and Appeals Working Group

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#### Time and date

9.30 am on Thursday 11th June, 2020

#### Place

Held remotely via Zoom

#### Attendees:

Members: Councillors Carole Cockburn (Lead Member), David Attfield, Alan Earwaker, Kika Mirylees, John Neale and Pat Evans (ex-Officio)

Officers: Iain Lynch (Town Clerk), Iain McCready (Business and Facilities Manager) and Adrienne Owen (Cemeteries and Memorials Administrator)

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

POINTS	ACTION
Apologies were received from Cllr Fraser.	

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

POINTS	ACTION
There were no declarations of interest.	

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

POINTS	ACTION
The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed.	

#### 4. Maintenance of the Cemeteries

POINTS	ACTION
1. The Working Group were updated on the current Maintenance schedule and noted that due to the recent Covid outbreak the Outside Workforce had been busier than normal with more work being carried out at the Nursery as a result of volunteers self-isolating.	

<p>2. The Working Group were informed that John Cooksley will be removing the Cemetery Gates in the next couple of weeks and they will be taken to a forge in Guildford where they will be stripped and a plan will be formed on how best to refurbish them.</p> <p>3. The Working Group noted the recent expansion of Wildflower areas at West Street and Badshot Lea Cemeteries and the new area at Green Lane Cemetery. Officers also informed the Working Group of the plan to place 6 benches within the old part of West Street Cemetery at the end of June which would be made available as memorials.</p> <p>4. Farnham Town Council Officers updated the Working Group on burials over the last three months.</p>	
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#### 5. Removal of trees at West Street Cemetery

POINTS	ACTION
<p>The Working Group discussed the possibility of removing 6 fir trees at the entrance to West Street Cemetery showing signs of ageing. The Working Group were shown pictures of how the trees look at the moment and also an old photograph showing that the trees have been in situ a long time. The Working Group agreed to employ a professional Arboriculturist to write a report which will be submitted to the next meeting on the health of the trees. It was also thought that some dead wooding could be actioned at the same time.</p>	<p>The Business and Facilities Manager to progress</p>

#### 6. Cemetery Regulations

POINTS	ACTION
<p>The Working Group received an update on implementing and enforcing the current Rules and Regulations with regard to over planting of graves and memorials.</p>	

#### 7. Recent Appeals

POINTS	ACTION
<p>The Working Group noted there were no new appeals.</p>	

#### 8. Memorial Update

POINTS	ACTION
<p>The Working Group discussed the outcome of the recent Memorial Testing carried out by Haven Memorials. The Working Group noted that there had been 82 memorial failures and Farnham Town Council staff would try to contact the owners of the memorials and that the stones would be laid down instead of being staked where appropriate. Memorials which had failed and were of significant artistic merit will be fixed by a qualified Stonemason.</p>	

## 9. Items for future meetings

<b>POINTS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
The Working Group agreed the following items for future discussion#; <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Columbaria in West Street Cemetery: A meeting had been set up before the recent Covid outbreak and it was hoped that a meeting could be arranged prior to a report being prepared.</li><li>2. Hale Chapels: The Working Group discussed the future of the Hale Chapels and were informed that work commissioned for a local Architect to show 4 options for the future of the Chapels had not been delivered. A detailed report showing a what has been discussed previously on the future of the Chapels will be provided for the next meeting in order that a decision can be made.</li></ol>	The Business and Facilities Officer to progress

## 10. Date of the next meeting

<b>POINTS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
The date of the next scheduled meeting is the 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.	

The meeting ended at 11.00 am

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