

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Temporary Town Clerk:
Mrs S Say

14a The Square North Tawton
EX20 2EP
Tel 01837 880121

Minutes of the Meeting of North Tawton Town Council Estates Committee held at the Council Offices on **Monday 25 July 2016**

Present: Cllr Mr I MacLeod, Cllr Mr K Hodge, Cllr Mr M Fisher, Cllr Mrs C Burrow, Cllr Ms J Trewitt, Cllr Mr S Whiteley

The meeting opened at 8.20 pm

- 1 Apologies.
Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (personal reasons). The apologies were accepted.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Proposed repairs to stone walling at areas in the Town.**
 - 3.1 **Report back from meeting with Mr G Cawse**
Cllr MacLeod reported that he had met with Mr Cawse to discuss the way forward reference repairs to the walls. Members will recall that Mr Cawse had notified the Council that he was not able to continue project management of these repairs, and had suggested that we employ a general builder, as the repairs need no specialist stone-masonry skills. The cemetery wall is now stable, following the stump removal. Many of the loose stones can simply be knocked back into place with a mallet, and this is all that remains to be done with regard to the cemetery.
 - 3.2 **Stone walling to the Memorial Park**
 - Area to the left of the main gate in Barton Street – needs repointing, and the coping needs repair/cementing.
 - Area to the right of the main gate – again this needs repointing.
 - Next section (ie between the buttresses) – no problems.
 - Next section – some heaving, but apparently not unstable, needs some repointing.
 - Next section – no problems.
 - Next section – some repointing required.
 - There is about 10 hours work required in all.
 - It should be noted that advice has been received to use lime mortar when repointing.
 - 3.3 **Wall to the rear of the Post Office**
 - There are a number of loose stones. The suggestion is to remove the stones, chamfer the bank, and replace the stones – about 10-15 hours work.
 - A number of contractors were suggested as being competent to undertake these works; Cllr Whiteley will speak to contractors and engage someone able to undertake the work.

Other issues:

- A local resident had advised that one of the trees in the churchyard is severely blocking light from her property, and asked if anything can be done. After some discussion it was agreed to investigate raising the canopy of the tree, if this could be done together with other proposed pruning in the churchyard at a total cost of not more than £400. This proposal was moved, seconded, and agreed.

- With reference to the cemetery, it was reported that grave number B214 has the cross leaning over, and some holes that need filling in. The Clerk will speak to the relevant contractor reference this issue.
- In response to a query, the Clerk advised that nothing had been heard back from West Devon Planning Department reference the trees with TPOs that had been cut down at Webbs Orchard.

4 Questions/comments from members of the public.

4.1 In response to a query from Mrs C Hughes reference the TPO status of trees at and around Webbs Orchard, there was some discussion, and it appears that all of the trees around Webbs Orchard are the subject of TPOs.

4.2 Mrs C Hughes raised the issue of pruning of trees in the churchyard, and the fact that the churchyard being a conservation area, permission is required from the planning authority, or notification must be made to the planning authority. The Clerk is to check what needs to be done in this regard, and ensure the correct procedures are followed.

4.3 Mrs C Hughes advised that there is an organisation that collects yew cuttings as they can be used for cancer treatment. The Clerk is to investigate this.

5 Parish Matters

There was some discussion reference a specific grave in the cemetery, it was agreed that further investigation is needed as to ownership; the Clerk will report back to the Committee in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.