



**Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross,
Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND BURIAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM AT ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL.**

PRESENT

Cllr. Paul Turner (Committee Chair), Cllr. James Kitchenham, Cllr. Robert Harris
Cllr. Janice Richardson Cllr. Beverley Johnstone (Council Chair)
(Council Vice Chair)

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Cllr. Lucy Buck, Vice Chair of this Committee, and Cllr. P. Snelling

ALSO PRESENT

Trevor Thorpe, Deputy Parish Clerk

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85).

Councillors Hiles and Martin submitted apologies, and it was **RESOLVED** that their reasons be accepted.

b) Declaration of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.

None declared.

c) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 11th July 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

These had been adopted as a true record and signed at the 20th of July 2023 Parish Council Meeting.

d) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings.

11th July Extraordinary meeting.

- Grass and spoil bins in the recreation ground have been emptied and new surfacing installed. Soil bins at the Cemetery have been emptied and repairs are still required. Cllr. Turner is to speak with Cllr. Martin regarding this.

- Cllr. Turner is to arrange a site meeting with contractor to discuss and seek quotes for extending the Cemetery path into the lower field, and relocation of the bench currently next to the Jubilee Tree. If works are agreed they will take place in the 2024/25 budget year.

- Chair of this Committee is to inspect the steps to the Scout Hut to establish if repair work is required or has taken place.

e) Receive committee financial reports and agree any actions required.

Setting of the budget for this Committee will be dealt with as an agenda item for the 30th of November Parish Council Meeting. Budget and nominal ledger reports were provided to those at this meeting. Committee Chair is to discuss the financial reports with the Clerk to clarify some items within and will report to the Committee if any matters require action.

2. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED REGARDING THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND.
Cemetery, St Denys Old Burial Ground and Court Meadow Green

a) Receive Memorial Inspection Reports and agree future actions.

Inspection has been undertaken in the Parish Cemetery and the Old Burial Ground by consulting engineers; copies are of their reports have been provided to the Council. Cllrs. Harris and Turner will make a visit to the Burial Ground to inspect overgrown areas impeding access to some memorials. Two overgrown Chestnut trees are to be inspected to see if they also require attention. Issues with memorials in the Cemetery have been identified in the report received, and a further quote from another contractor is to be obtained.

ACTION FOR DEPUTY CLERK. To obtain a quote from another company specialising in memorial repairs for comparison.

b) Arrange repair/replacement of bench on Court Meadow Green and inspect other benches.

The damaged bench has been removed and it was agreed that it will not be replaced.

c) Consider measures to improve drainage in the Parish Cemetery.

There are damp areas in the Cemetery, and the bottom section of the car park area is being washed away. Various suggestions to provide drainage were made and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Turner will investigate further and report at the next meeting of this Committee.

Recreation Ground and play area

a) Measures to discourage dogs on the recreation ground.

The Football Club are proactive in advising visitors that dogs are not permitted in the area. It was **RESOLVED** that other sports groups using the site, together with the Village Hall, Scouts, School, and Pre School should be contacted to re-iterate the "no dogs" rule. **DEPUTY CLERK** to write to regular users of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that further "no dogs" signs be obtained. **CLLR TURNER** is to identify locations for signs and agree the type required with the deputy clerk.

3. RECEIVE DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024, in the Committee Room at Rotherfield Village Hall at 19:30. Cllr. Turner is not available on this date and vice chair will deputise.

4. REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Uses for the currently unused areas by the site of the former cricket nets, and areas elsewhere on the recreation, ground were discussed. It was suggested that the following - items could be provided.

- Youth shelter(s) by the Rec. perimeter.
- Fixed outdoor exercise equipment.
- Nets for the cricket club.

It was considered that some of the suggestions could attract external grant funding. Committee Chair is to discuss suggestions with the Sports Club and an item is to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of this committee to consider options. **CLERK** to add item to 6th February 2024 meeting agenda.

The meeting was declared closed at **20:30**

.....**Signed**..... **Date**

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