

## WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3 OCTOBER 2017

### Agenda item 17/111 recommendations of the Cemetery Working group for the new extension

The working group is seeking Council approval to the following fundamental issues in order to be in a position to bring the new extension into use as soon as the land is formally in the WPC ownership. There is a time pressure because the existing cemetery is now full.

Other issues (e.g wider landscaping of the new section and updated cemetery rules (also issues picked up in the existing cemetery Walkabout), will be brought to Council at future meetings.

Council approval is therefore currently sought for the following (NB it is hoped illustrative images will be available at the meeting):

#### General

- The new extension to be laid out as a lawned cemetery. The Group recommends this designation having visited/viewed images from Melbourn cemetery. Melbourn describe this as designation as “a plain grassed area between all graves. Headstones are permitted on a plinth area only and no fencing, kerbing or planting outside of this area is permitted”.

#### Burial plots in the new extension

- Headstones and space for up to three vases/pots to be laid on concrete base
- A continuous strip to be set out to provide back-to-back grave spaces. (The practice in Melbourn is to prepare around 10-12 spaces at a time).
- Each space to be 9ft 6 in comprising a grave area to be 7ft 6 in with adjoining 18 inches for headstone/adornment space
- Grave direction to be as in the existing area, i.e at right angle to the wall
- Lawned area then to be cut parallel to the path
- Sequence of plot use – to start on the left hand side by the path and work down to make a row alongside the wall.
- The right hand side will be used for children’s burials (NB: recommendations on eligible ages etc to follow as part of updated rules referred to above)
- A seat should be installed in the new area on the right by the wall
  
- Pre-booking – not to be permitted except to allow a spouse to be alongside their pre-deceased partner, or a parent alongside a child.

#### Ashes plots in the existing cemetery

There is space to provide for new ashes plots beyond the yew tree at the top end of existing row alongside the path. The working group recommends the following layout requirements are adopted:

- A 2ft by 2ft slab area, enabling maximum dimensions for a stone of 18 x 18 inches.
- To lay down a continuous strip between the two yew trees adjacent to the path
- 3 slab options: ledger, upright, flat wedge
- Vases to fit onto the slab only

#### Costs

As yet the costs involved in the construction work needed to lay out initial burial and ashes plots as described above are unknown. A separate proposal will need to come back to Council on this. Note the group has already committed to review current fee levels prior to the forthcoming Financial Year. A figure of £7,500 was included in the current year budget for cemetery issues.