

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Notes on Buckland Monachorum site meeting at Buckland Monachorum Cemetery (11th Feb 2017, 10.00am)

Present: Cllrs Sue Britton, David Butland, Sally Challiss, Laurie Larkin, Susan Woollacott.

Apologies: Cllrs Fowler, Vincent, Wood. Kelly Johns, Clerk.

In the absence of the Clerk, notes taken by SC & checked by others present.

Because there is some urgency about some of these matters the Clerk is requested to put these notes / recommendations on the agenda for the 21 Feb Full Council meeting.

1. Inspection of shed & 'roundel'. Cllrs discussed whether these should be demolished / felled in order to tidy up the area and create more grave spaces. To clear the area would be very expensive, especially as it would be necessary to dig out the tree roots and shed base, & Cllrs doubted whether more than approx 10 grave spaces would be achieved. The area was neat & tidy. The cemetery extension is almost ready to use. Also, the shed might be needed in the future. It was therefore decided to **RECOMMEND** instead that the shed be retained and the Clerk be asked to seek quotes for:

reducing the height of all the leylandii that have grown over-tall to the height of the apex of the shed roof (ie trees both in front of & behind the shed);
trimming the shed-facing sides of same; removing ivy from the shed;
and cutting the overgrown trees in the hedge between the cemetery & the playpark down to match the rest of the hedge. DB will try to obtain an indicative quote for info.

2. Main path leading up from the Lych Gate. This is overgrown with thick moss, and rotting leaves are mounded on both sides of the path. This is unsightly & unsafe.

It was decided to ask the Clerk to direct the Contractor to clear the leaves as soon as possible, well before the end of Feb. Also, to **RECOMMEND** that the contract schedule be amended to state that these leaves should be cleared by mid- December (in time for Christmas visitors to the Cemetery).

The moss is easy to scrape at present so it was also **RECOMMENDED** that at the meeting on Feb 21 the Council arrange for this to be done, perhaps by a working party, and that the path should afterwards be sprayed (in suitable conditions). This work needs to be done asap. DB will obtain advice from his agronomist regarding herbicide sprays and application, including frequency required. (Also for gravel paths in Churchyard).

3. Councillors were generally disappointed with the state of the Cemetery.
It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

the Council's contractor should **not** be among those asked to quote for these, or other, extra works, in order to ensure that he has time to carry out his core duties and

that the Clerk be asked to monitor the Contractor's work on a regular basis, meeting with him as necessary, to ensure that he keeps up to date with the work.

The Clerk is asked to e-mail to Cllrs the schedule for the maintenance contract in advance of the 21 Feb meeting.

Cllrs also ask the Clerk to point out to the Contractor that the following work needs to be carried out by the end of March in order to complete the current year's contract:

The tops of the leylandii hedge need tidying/ trimming.

The beech hedge of the rear of the old cemetery needs to be reduced by 3 – 4 ft and the sides trimmed well. (There may be a case for obtaining quotes for this as extra work as the hedge has not been cut for some time).

Cllrs asked for clarification about the cutting of the overgrown hazel hedge and about spraying the long hedge.