



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Church Yard Committee** held on Monday 13th March 2017 at 4.00pm in the Whalley Parish Church Yard

1. Prayers

2. Present and apologies

Present: Cllr C Ball (Chairman) Mr T Small Cllr M Fallon
Cllr M Highton Cllr L Rimmer
Apologies: Revd. J Carmyllie

In attendance Mr F Holland Clerk to Whalley Parish Council

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Church Yard Meeting held on the 14th November 2017

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2017 were a correct record and could be signed.

4. Matters arising

Para 5 – Abbey Gardening Services have ‘Bati –cleaned’ the path to the west of the Tower for a second time. Action complete.

Para 7a – The Tree Preservation Officer (Dave Hewitt) at RVBC has been notified of the vandalism trees in the ‘new’ Churchyard. But there has been no response. Action continuing; the Clerk is to request acknowledgement of incident from RVBC.

Para 7b – Brent Stevenson has been requested to undertake a full inspection of the memorials within the Churchyard. Action complete; see Agenda item 5 below.

Para 8 – the Clerk has confirmed that the Parish Council does have the necessary Insurance cover for the Churchyard. Action complete.

5. To note the comments from Brent Stevenson regarding memorial safety in the Church Yard

The Ministry of Justice requires that Churchyard and Cemetery memorials are inspected for safety every 5 years. The memorials in Whalley church yard were inspected 3 years ago and the Churchyard Committee resolved to have the Memorials inspected every 3 years.

To this end the Clerk requested Brent Stephenson to undertake a full inspection of our memorials.

Brent Stevenson has responded by agreeing to carry out a safety inspection late spring/early summer. However he advised the following:

- a. Minister of Justice Recommendation is that memorials are inspected every five years. The Church Yard inspection regime is well within that time limit.
- b. The safety inspection is a recommendation that the appropriate authority is made aware of concerns and it is the role of the authority to act or otherwise on that advice.
- c. The advice given to that authority refers only to that moment in time of the inspection.

d. As the Church Yard is near to the local school specific attention should be given to the safety of 'table monuments'.

6. To review spring/winter maintenance issues

It was noted that:

- a. In addition to cleaning the Churchyard paths Abbey Gardening Services have removed the lime tree suckers.
- b. Lambert Walker have completed the works on the North wall along Church Road. The North Gate is off site under renovation.

7. To consider future maintenance issues

As a priority at this moment in time it was resolved to:

- a. Act on the report from Tree Check Ltd regarding the trees in the Church Yard
- b. Act on the report from Brent Stevenson on any safety issues regarding the memorials
- c. To seek tenders for the renovation of the East Gate

8. Any Other Business

- a. The Garden of Remembrance is being 'decorated' with unapproved flowers and candles. Furthermore ashes have been scattered around a tree in the Garden of Remembrance without any reference to the Church. This can lead to an unsightly situation and the Meeting discussed what action should be taken. The Chairman undertook to discuss this matter with the Vicar to establish rules for the placing of flowers and tokens in the Garden of Remembrance. Action – Chairman.
- b. There is an outstanding action to replace a yew and a laburnum tree in the Churchyard. Members of the Church congregation have offered to provide the trees and the matter has been discussed and approved by the PCC. The position of the trees has been identified so all that is necessary is for Abbey Gardening Services to plant the trees. Action on the Chairman to determine who is going to supply/provide the saplings.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at 4.00pm on Monday 8th May 2017 at the Church.

The meeting closed at 4.46 pm

Sign _____ Date _____