

A MEETING OF THE WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2025 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT-

Councillor Mary Clark (Acting Chairman)
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor John Hamblin
Councillor George Girvan
Councillor Tony Huntington
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor William Marrs
Councillor Chris Scott

WBJC/67/2025 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Councillor John Mattinson

WBJC/68/2025 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025 – **Approved**
TH stated he hadn't received information on reserves; clerk was sure they had been sent.

WBJC/69/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NONE

WBJC/70/2025 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Pursuant to the section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of agenda item 9.

Public and press were excluded from agenda item 12

WBJC/71/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

WBJC/72/2025 FINANCE MATTERS

6.1 To discuss amending the 2025/2026 budget to allow for a contingency reserve.

Estimated closing balance main account £6060
Estimated closing balance eSavings account £102,535
Estimated total closing balance £108,595

Estimated 12 months operating costs £36000

Taking into account the Able Memorial invoice, estimated reserves £72595

Amended budget – Income £52956, including precept of £10739 and expenditure £82656

Contingency fund of £10,000 already in place.

6.2 To discuss the cemetery fees and consider future fees.

RESOLVED

Members discussed fees, it was agreed that the Cumberland Council fees would need to be seen before the WBJC could set theirs. One member found their fees on their website and it was agreed these fees would be used but adding an additional 10% on top.

The clerk would add draft the fees and send to members when complete.

6.3 To approve installing a cement apron around the septic tank pump

This was an action from previous minutes.

RESOLVED

Members agreed that Cllrs Girvan and Marrs would undertake the work when the weather was better.

WBJC/73/2025 HEADSTONE AND CENOTAPH REPAIRS – Cllr Girvan

Cllr Girvan provided an updating, explaining 14 out of 15 repairs had been complete and a further 10 were to be repaired.

Able Memorials looked at the war memorial and stated that some of the repainting and lead lettering could be done onsite but some would need to be taken offsite to complete. They couldn't provide an exact estimate but stated it could be in the region of £2520, they wouldn't know for sure until it was taken apart.

A second company was approached for a quote, Clive Horsley, who are stonemasons in Workington. They repeated what Able Memorial stated, although had not yet sent an estimate through.

It was queried if this work would be completed by 11th November, this was something that would need to be checked.

It was also queried whether there was any funding available for memorial repairs and whether a Lakes and Fells grant could be accessed? The Joyce Wilkinson Foundation could also be a possibility.

WBJC/74/2025 SCREENING

Members discussed the screening situation after the dead hedge was removed.

RESOVLED

In principle, a screen could be installed but it would need to meet certain criteria and would need to be inside the garden and not the cemetery side. It would need to be 2-3 feet away from the new hedge so it does not block light.

It was stated the new hedge will leaf all year when mature.

It was agreed that the plan would be sent to the tenants via Your Move before any work would be undertaken to ensure they are happy with the suggestion.

WBJC/75/2025 CCTV

Members discussed the need for CCTV which would cover the entrance of the cemetery and front of the house.

Different quotes had been obtained.

RESOLVED

Members voted in favour of using PWS, in Wigton to install the CCTV. They would be able to start the installation in the next few weeks. The committee asked the clerk to confirm the date.

The clerk would also purchase CCTV signs and arrange for them to be displayed.

WBJC/76/2025 COLLECTION DEAD FLOWERS/DEBRIS

Currently, volunteers are relied upon to remove all the dead flowers and remove debris so members discussed how this would be managed in the future.

One option would be to utilise the park staff to remove debris every two weeks. The clerk agreed to speak with the grounds supervisor who could then meet with the chairman of the committee for a walk around.

WBJC/77/2025 SIGNAGE

Members discussed the problem with dog walkers allowing dogs to defecate in the cemetery grounds. It was suggested that signage be installed to inform dog owners that dogs must be on a lead less than 6ft.

RESOLVED

The clerk would look into signage and send options to the chairman.

WBJC/77/2025 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

No update provided as there is still no SLA. MC to contact the Cumberland Council and will update at next meeting.

Meeting ended 8:36pm.

Next meeting – 22nd May 2025.