

# **West Rainton Parish Council - 15 December 2016**

## **Agenda item 10: Annual contract for Cemetery Maintenance**

**Report by: G Keedy, Project Officer**

Concerns expressed by local residents and Members about the condition and appearance of West Rainton Cemetery has led to a review of the approach to maintenance of the site.

Historically, the Parish Council has let an annual contract for grass cutting, with other maintenance work being commissioned on an ad hoc basis.

High levels of dissatisfaction with the appearance of the cemetery have led to strong representations being made to the Parish Council for improvements, most notably at the June meetings of 2015 and 2016.

The Parish Council has acknowledged and concurred with the views expressed by cemetery users and committed to look at ways to introduce improvements.

Members will recall that included in the remit of Cemetery Development Services (our engaged specialist cemetery consultancy) was the task of drawing up a technical specification for an environmental maintenance contract.

This has now been provided and is tabled as an Appendix.

The contract documentation covers grass cutting, shrub maintenance, moss removal, tree management and litter clearance and represents a more comprehensive approach to cemetery grounds management than that previously adopted by the Parish Council.

Drawn up by experienced professionals, the contract sets out clearly the Parish Council's requirements and quality expectations.

Parish Council is asked to note this report; approve the content of the proposed Maintenance Contract; and consider arrangements for immediate letting.

GK 7 Dec 2016