

West Rainton Parish Council - 16 March 2017

Item 14: Cemetery issues

Report of G Keedy, Project Officer

1) Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium (ICCM) membership

Cemetery operation and management is a specialised area of Parish Council activity.

Queries arise from time to time requiring detailed knowledge of legislation and processes governing cemetery operations.

Current officers have relied upon the goodwill of specialist cemetery and bereavement staff at other local councils to provide advice and guidance on an informal basis in response to ad hoc queries. These sources have been most helpful and this is acknowledged, but this approach is leading to an over-reliance on these contacts.

The ICCM is a professional body founded in 1913 and since that time has provided policy and best practice guidance to Burial and Cremation authorities - its corporate members. It represents its corporate members at government level.

The ICCM is the only provider of accredited education and training opportunities for those persons working within the service - its Professional members.

The aim of the ICCM is to raise standards for the bereaved through the promotion of the above.

ICCM offers various membership categories- including "Corporate" – aimed at burial and cremation authorities. Further details are shown in Appendix 1.

Importantly, membership includes access to support, help and advice from full-time, Diploma qualified officers.

The current annual membership fee for town and parish councils is £90.00

More information about the ICCM can be found at:

<http://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/index.php>

Parish Council is asked to consider joining the ICCM at Corporate membership level for 17-18 at a cost of £90.00.

West Rainton Parish Council - 16 March 2017

Item 14: Cemetery issues cont ...

2) Memorial headstone safety testing

Parish Council has received an enquiry from a member of the public seeking information about safeguards around the intended stress testing exercise.

This led to enquiries by Project Officer with the contractor to confirm levels of insurance cover.

Subsequent concerns around the adequacy of their insurance cover prompted a query from Parish Clerk to the Council's insurers (Came and Co.) to establish if its' policy would provide cover in the event of any accidental damage arising during works.

Our insurers have provided confirmation that the Parish Council's policy will provide cover on the understanding that the contractor has received training and that risk assessments are undertaken.

Parish Council is asked to note this information.

3) Waste container - unauthorised use.

A suggestion was made by Cllr Gilbank at February meeting that a padlock be fitted to the container to prevent unauthorised use.

This has been raised with the gatekeeper. As the container is required for use by visitors during cemetery opening hours, any perceived requirement for locking it would apply only outside of these times. It is considered unlikely that anyone would attempt unauthorised use as to do so would require them to climb over the boundary wall or fence.

An inspection of the container by Project Officer and Cllr Gilbank indicates that it is made from very heavy duty plastic rather than metal as first thought and there was no scope for padlock securing.

Parish Council is asked to note the position, but take no further action.

4) Saplings at boundary fence

Following the decision at February meeting, Cllr Clifford undertook the necessary work on 22 February. The resident who raised the issue was informed in advance of the intended course of action.

5) Trade Waste contract

Parish Clerk to provide a verbal update on any developments.