

SITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERIES COMMITTEE MEETING At Netherton Village Hall

Tuesday 25th February at 7.00 pm 2025

Present: Cllr Fearnside, Cllr Myers, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Crow.

Recommendations /actions

- It was agreed to not have a bug hotel in Netherton Cemetery.
- The edging stone to be the only memorial garden and families encouraged to buy a plant for the garden. Bird boxes were also considered as an additional memorial for both cemeteries.
- The committee agreed no kerbstones in section F at Netherton cemetery.
- It was agreed the tree should be removed on plot 16/17 at Netherton Windy bank. Permissions and quotes will be required.
- Having a clear maintenance plan and volunteers to carry out the maintenance on the community plot on Netherton Windy bank allotment site. Cllr Smith to discuss at the allotment meeting.

1/225.Welcome and apologies

2/225.The chairs reminder of the council's expectations for the audio or visual recording of this meeting.

Standing Order 3(I), The recording of council and parish meetings is permitted under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 but recording will be carried out in accordance with separate rules adopted by the local council to effectively and lawfully manage this activity.

3/225.Members' Declarations of Interest

To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

4/225.Public Admissions to Meetings Act (1960)

5/225.To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting dated Tuesday 17th December 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Myers

Seconded: Cllr Crow

6/225.To receive an update on the previous actions dated 17/12/24

Recommendations from the last meeting.

- Add the Open Country project to Facebook
Added
- Charges for the cemeteries to remain the same for 2025
Charges list updated accordingly
- Charges list for new memorials to be deferred to the next meeting.
Agenda item 8.2
- Rules and regulations to be updated to note the plastic memorials are not allowed
Updated
- The request for kerbstone in F section Netherton to be deferred to the next meeting
Agenda Item 8.3

7/225.To receive an update on the Open country project on both sites.

The project has commenced at Netherton Cemetery, clearing the area and doing some planting. The group suggested a bug hotel; however the overall response was that it was not appropriate for the cemetery.

It was agreed to not have a bug hotel in Netherton Cemetery.

8/225.Cemeteries

a-To receive an update on the memorial garden at Middlestown Cemetery. (Cllr Fearnside)

Cllr Fearnside updated the meeting and the stones should be ready for 14th March for installation.

b-To consider proposed memorials for both cemeteries and agree charges.

The committee consider the report and recommendations for the memorial garden. Concerns were raised about too many memorials and accessibility walking around the gardens. A Sun dial was considered for memorials to add memorial plaques. The edging stone to be the only memorial garden and families encouraged to buy a plant for the garden. Bird boxes were also considered as an additional memorial for both cemeteries.

The bird boxes (both cemeteries) will be limited and are made by open country for £10.Costs to families considered.

It was agreed to charge £100 resident- £130 non-resident PC (including plaque (life span of box) Different bird boxes for different birds considered. Clerk to approach open country for further details.

Plaque edging stones for a memorial same as the wall £120 resident and plaque £200 non-resident

Clerk to add to charges to current form and send out to the committee.

c-To consider the request for kerbstone on section F of Netherton cemetery and agree action.

The regulations currently state A & E sections only, however we have kerbstone in the first plot of the F section at Netherton.

The committee considered kerbstones for section F. The committee agreed no kerbstones in section F

8.4-To receive an update on quotes for the footpaths for Netherton Cemetery.
Ongoing currently seeking quotes.

9/225.Allotments

a-To receive an update on all allotment's sites

The invoices have been sent out and water calculated

Overton £20.00(letter sent out with further investigation required on the usage on this site) It was agreed to discuss the issue with the tenants.

Netherton Central £5.00

Netherton Windy Bank £6.00

A few vacancies have arisen from the year end and the waiting list will be contacted.

NWB site has had issue with rats the clerk has contact Wakefield Council for an action plan to investigate further.

b-To receive an up on a meeting with the allotment tenants to improve communication. (Cllr Smith) Not in attendance

It was agreed that a meeting before the spring ready for tenants coming back after the winter into the growing season.

c-To consider the tree on plot 16/17 and whether it should be removed or trimmed back.

The tenant has requested we look at the tree on plot 16/17 again. This has been monitored over the years at inspection time.

Cllr Smith was to approach the land owner and the Parish office will approach the tree surgeon for advice.

It was agreed the tree should be removed; Cllr Smith needs to contact the farmer. Clerk to obtain quotes for felling.

d-To consider the request to further trim the Oak tree at Netherton cemetery and agree action.

We have had a further request to trim the Oak tree on the left-hand side fence.

Although trimming it too much will unbalance the shape, as advised by the tree surgeon when he trimmed it back in December 2025.

Parish Office to speak to families about the tree and how it is affecting their graves.

e-To consider the upkeep of the community plot and how best to utilise the space for tenants and wildlife.

Moving in to the spring, and with Open Country carrying out work on the community plot. A plan in place to ensure the upkeep over the summer months.

It was noted planting around the community plot would cover the area and make it tidy for all to enjoy. Having a clear maintenance plan and volunteers to carry out the maintenance. Cllr Smith to discuss at the allotment meeting.

f-To receive an update on the water charges for all sites to be added to the coming invoices. See 9.1 on water charges. A letter has been sent to the Overton tenants raising concerns about the charges this year with the small number of plots on the site.

10/225.Correspondence

Tenant informed the Parish Council of rats on the NWB site. The clerk contacted Wakefield Council for an inspection and an action plan.

11/225.Date and Time of Next Meeting

To arrange the date and time of the next meeting.

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Allotment & Cemetery committee 25/2/25

Chair

