

Minutes of The Churchyard Liaison Committee

A meeting was held on Monday 27th July at 6.30 attended by Paul Kelly (PK) Staplehurst Parish Council, Val Wallis (VW) and Roger Munn (RM) from All Saints Church. It was noted That Paul Butcher was unable to be with us.

It was felt that the overall the church yard was been kept very tidy with great consideration for nature conservation too. Our thanks to Graham Smith for his work

It was agreed that some tree work was required. This would need to be prioritised as to what was required for Health and Safety and essential work and that seen as routine maintenance work. It was agreed that we would get three quotes. PK could inform us of a firm that was qualified to do the work to enable us get three quotes. All work would have to go through the Church Faculty process and Maidstone Borough Council as the Churchyard is in a conservation area.

Action

PK

VW

It was noted that the wall had been completed but there was still some plaques to be fixed. It was reported that the contractor was waiting for confirmation of the placing of the plaques from the Church Warden before completing the job.

The memorial seat in front of the wall was in a state of disrepair and may be a risk of causing injury to anyone sitting on it. It should be raised with the PCC

VW

The footpath from the crossroads running southwards to the bottom of the Churchyard was in need of some attention. PK would ascertain whose responsibility this was and therefore where funding might come from.

PK

The kissing gate has not yet been fixed. This should be done as a priority. VW to raise this with the PCC.

VW

There would be a work party arranged for tidying up the area at the bottom of the Churchyard. There were several self-sown trees / bushes that should be removed before they became too big at the same time.

VW

It was agreed that we would recommend to the PCC that two memorial seats should be allowed in Area 1 of the new Church yard. These could be placed against the south facing hedge and would not affect any graves. These can be only placed on materials that allow drainage to the ground and not concrete due to the planning restrictions. It was also noted that there is already some planting on the graves which contravenes the planning permission restriction put in place by Kent Wild life Trust. The KWT do monitor the area over a period of time and this could be an issue.

VW

It was felt this had been a useful meeting and we would come together again in time for the budget preparations in the autumn.

VW