

## **ALL SAINTS' STAPLEHURST CHURCHYARD LIAISON COMMITTEE**

The committee meet on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Present Paul Kelly: Parish Council

Roger Munn: All Saints' Church

Val Wallis: All Saints' Church

Apologies Peter Spearink; Parish Council

The committee was pleased with the maintenance level of the church yard and the work of Graham Smith.

It was agreed that a working party would be planned for some odd jobs around focusing on the many self-seeded saplings that had shot up. If left they could become unmanageable for volunteers and very quickly become established trees. VW agreed to plan a working party.

There are some saplings on graves and these also would need to be removed. If left and they became established the roots could cause damage to headstones. A process was being planned to inform families of the required work. It was planned that the work would be done by volunteers.

The bottom part of the new area has now been cut and the cuttings are being picked up as required by our management plan. It was noted that both fields are covered by this plan and that cuttings in the field should also be lifted.

The management plan also suggests a compost area and that has been started.

The issue of spoil from graves needs to be addressed.

There was some discussion concerning the maintenance of this new area now it is being used. The bottom area is very overgrown and if this is not addressed it will become a very huge task with high costs. It was agreed that VW would get a quote to see what costs would be involved to start the process. It could be done in stages. There would be some ongoing costs following clearing to keep it at an acceptable level whilst recognizing its Local Wildlife site status.

There has been some further tree work completed and an ongoing maintenance plan is in place.

Val Wallis 10/8/16