

## **MEETING OF SHEFFORD AND CAMPTON JOINT BURIAL BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held via Zoom on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 4pm.

Present: Cllr Ash for Campton & Chicksands as Chair, Cllr King, Cllr Mackin for Shefford, Clerk for Campton and Chicksands, Tammy Medley.

### **36/25 APOLOGIES/ DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Culleton, Cllr Longson. Clerk for Shefford Francesca Fitch, Admin assistant Checka Quinlan for Shefford

### **37/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR:**

Cllr Ash agreed to Chair the meeting. Each Council will review representatives and once all representatives are in place a Chair will be appointed.

### **38/25 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING, MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by King, all agreed.

### **39/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

### **40/25 MEMORIAL WOOD:**

A Shefford resident has approached the TC to request a Memorial wood in the cemetery. Details had been sent to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Cllrs agreed that they would like to explore this further. TM will put it on the agenda for full council at both the TC and PC meetings for further discussion and will explore the proposal further.

### **41/25 RIALTAS:**

With both Francesca and Checka off on long-term sick there has been no further inputting to the Rialtas system as Rialtas have still got the back up for inputting of invoices for STC.

### **42/25 STAFFING:**

Due to covering for Francesca and Checka there has been no additional hours spent on the inputting of data. TM continues to make arrangements for burials.

### **43/25 FINANCE:**

TM does not have a full finance update at the moment as CQ and FF are both off sick. The bank balance for the cemetery account on was as of 15/08/25 £58,773.08.

- Since beginning of August there has been:
  - 1 full burial
  - 1 internment of ashes
  - 2 Statutory Declarations
  - 5 Memorial permits.

With 4 internments of ashes booked in for the next few weeks.

### **44/25 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:**

- There is an ongoing issue with molehills in the cemetery. Cllrs agreed to monitor this.
- The front hedge on Campton Rd requires the width to be reduced so that it does not encroach on the pathway. This was last reduced about 10 years ago, the quote received from 2 Elms is for £870, proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.
- The plaques are overgrown and need cutting back. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- The Yew tree needs pruning. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Branches need lifting on several trees. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- One of the benches which is cemented into the ground has sunk, mainly the back legs, this will require work to make it sturdy. TM will look at the bench, proposed by Cllr Ash to make it safe, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- The hedge dividing the old part of the cemetery and the field has brambles growing through, these need to be removed. Cllrs will view this before committing.
- Some of the plastic edging around graves has been removed on the unkept graves due to it catching on the mower, there is more edging that needs to be taken up. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- There are two waste bins as you go into the cemetery, 2 Elms have suggested that one be moved to the other side of the cemetery, so bins are more accessible from both sides. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- There is a small bin in the old part of the cemetery by Ampthill Rd, it is only ever used for dog mess, Cllrs proposed that a dog bin be installed on Ampthill Rd by the gate that would be emptied by CBC along with the other dog bins? Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Some of the unattended graves need cleaning. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Cllrs considered a policy for all dogs to be on the lead. A number of dogs are allowed to roam and are urinating up the sides of memorials and plaques. Signs would need to be installed to update dog walkers. Proposed by Cllr Mackin, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

#### **45/25 CAMPTON BURIAL GROUND:**

No further update.

#### **46/25 AOB**

Cllr Ash for clarification of whether a piece of land is still owned by the Diocese in the cemetery, Cllr Mackin confirmed it is planned for future burials.

#### **47/25 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026, 2pm via Zoom.