



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Cemetery committee meeting

Held 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Present:** Cllr J Palca (in the chair), Cllrs R Nagaty, C Sharples  
Rev'd Sally Boyd  
Ground Manager Kerry Cote-Smyth

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

		Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> were received from Claire Griffin.	
2.	<b>Tour of Cemetery and Comments</b>	
	1. Chapel: internal decoration: some gold leaf has brushed off. To be repaired as soon as possible, to prevent worsening of the problem.	KCS
	2. Chapel: the bolt to secure the door is insecure. The Diocese to be advised that a sympathetic repair will be done to restore security.	KCS
	3. Donor bench: to be dealt with when new Head of Development is appointed.	
	4. Watt's grave: there is a chip in the surround. The chip has been retained and the repair will be done by the conservation team at the same time as the Chapel repair.	KCS
	5. The Clerk confirmed that the Deed granted at the time of purchase of a plot gives ownership of the plot to the family and descendants for 100 years. She will send the wording to the Chairman.	Clerk
3.	<b>Notes from last meeting:</b> these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.	
4.	<b>Clerks Report</b>	
	1. <i>Link with Gallery:</i> Claire advised of all funerals/interments	
	2. <i>Abandoned cars:</i> the Clerk had an email from the owner of one of the cars, saying he had been advised to leave it in the layby by the AA and the police were aware, and when he came back (some months later) it had gone! He was trying to get recompense, but disappeared when the Clerk refuted his claims.	
	3. <i>Regulations:</i> attached for comment	
	4. <i>Consecration:</i> it is not possible to re-consecrate the whole area, as consecrated ground cannot be consecrated again. The map of consecrated areas was circulated with the agenda.	

5. *File/book showing the graves of interesting individuals:* to be done as part of the data documentation that is current being undertaken, with input from the Gallery and from Cllr Sharples, to ensure a full record.

6. *Cemetery data:* Mr Herbert's report circulated with the agenda.

5. **Cemetery Regulations**

Cllr Palca has submitted her comments on the amended regulations. The Clerk will re-amend the regulations and circulate them for comment. **Clerk**

6. **Area of Consecration**

1. It was noted that the early area of the cemetery, areas B and C, are not consecrated. Rev'd Sally will talk to the Diocese about the process. **Rev'd S**

2. Areas E and F were consecrated by a Priest, where it is only a Bishop that can consecrate a burial ground. The reason for this to be investigated by Rev'd Sally. **Rev'd S**

3. Civil plots: Rev'd Sally would wish an area for Civil plots and plots for other faiths. The Clerk advised that the whole of the rest of the cemetery is consecrated, including the new part, and the non-consecrated area is full of graves. It was agreed to approach the adjoining landowner to explore the purchase of more land for a Civil area. **Clerk**

7. **Cemetery Data Capture:**

Mr Herbert's report was noted, in particular the complications in achieving accurate data.

The Clerk expanded the report by advising that, although the original map is accurate enough to have been generally usable in the years that she has been Clerk, there were significant errors in a number of areas: location of plot, record of burial, plots missing, plots repeated. It had now been possible to accurately plot the area of the cemetery and the areas within the cemetery, the next step will be to start to identify the plots in each area.

She reminded the Council of the problem she had encountered two years previously, when a plot was not where it was mapped, and an existing grave was uncovered as a result.

Members agreed that it is necessary to continue with this exercise, without a precise estimate of the ongoing costs, as accurate cemetery data is essential.

8. **Report from Gallery**

9.

The Gallery are happy to give their support to this Committee and will help in any way that they can.

The burst water pipe, resulting in a very large water bill, is an ongoing problem. The Gallery intend to install a new water pipe, dug in at 60cm depth, and to try for some recompense from Thames Water.

9. **Any other business**

No other matters were raised.

10 **Date of next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm.