



The Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RAIKES ROAD BURIAL GROUND held on Friday 26th April 2013, 1.30 pm at Raikes Road Burial Ground and then Skipton Town Council Offices, Barclay's Bank Chambers, Skipton.

Present: Jean Robinson, Valerie Mason, Eileen Hannigan, Norrie Earl, Audrey Crossley, Audrey Harrison, Geoff Sharwood-Smith, Jane Kulkova, Les Chandler and Wendy Brown (Minutes).

1. Apologies for absence

Isabel Warren, Daniel Webb, Geoff Pipkin, Stephanie Carter and Eric Jaquin.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 18th January 2013.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 18th January 2013 were approved by the Committee members present at that meeting.

3. Ongoing and planned work

A list of jobs and tasks would be compiled by Les. When completed this would be circulated and agreed between the Friends.

Jobs to include:

Approaching the Community Payback team for their assistance.

Agreeing what the paths should look like.

Improving access.

Collating old photographs and stories about the burial ground – Norrie Earl would attempt to contact Val Rowley.

Surveys

Restoration

Provision of bat and bird boxes

What to plant – Audrey Crossley would provide Primroses

Signage and Information boards

Benches and seating – Geoff Sharwood-Smith happy to contribute to this (or any fixed structure)

Local press

4. Updates on media and promotion

Jean advised that her book will soon be ready for publication.

It was noted that local schools include Victorian life and history projects on their curriculum.

Schools might possibly want to combine a visit to the burial ground with a visit to Skipton Castle.

Skipton Town Council's Chief Officer has agreed to prepare a Press Release to coincide with the receipt of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Although Stephen Brackley has moved away, Steve Davenport has taken on the task of updating news on the website.

Leaflets- Jean will let the Town Council offices know if she requires any more printing.

5. Grants

Les informed members that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant application has been accepted and £9000 will be donated to the Friends. The HLF has not yet sent out a formal offer letter but it is clear that the money will have to be used for the things itemised in the grant application.

He also stated that the Town Council had budgeted £750 in the 2013-14 financial year for 'Friends' group support.

6. National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM – 8th June 2013

This event is being organised by Friends of York Cemetery and two representatives of FRRBG can attend free of charge. Jean advised that if any Friends were interested in attending they should let her know prior to Tuesday 30th April. Val Mason, Norrie Earl and Audrey Harrison advised they would like to attend.

7. Cherished Churchyards Open Day

Cherished Churchyards is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust initiative to be held between 8th and 16th June 2013. The Friends agreed that it would be good to show the general public what the burial ground looks like now before any restoration work has been carried out. The group decided to use this event as an opportunity to get other people's idea on what should happen to the land.

It was agreed to open the burial ground to the public for the Cherished Churchyards Open Day on Sunday 9th and Wednesday 12th June. Jean, Val, Norrie, Audrey H and Les advised that they were happy to help and Jean asked that if anyone else was interested in assisting on one of these two day they should let her know.

Les will arrange for the hire of the Town Council's gazebo, table(s) and chairs plus provide name tags for the volunteers.

Jean will contact the Craven Herald to ask them to promote the event and ask if Steve Garnett can be there to take photographs.

8. Conservation Officer

It was decided that Les would check if the Craven Volunteer Centre were advertising this post and if not ask them to ensure it was advertised and await any responses

9. Working Parties

It was agreed that members of the group would tidy up the burial ground in the morning prior to the Cherished Churchyards Open Day on Sunday 9th and Wednesday 12th June.

10. Any Other Business

Dee Pollitt from Craven Volunteer Centre is organising a project designed to help the unemployed to find work and has asked for suitable dates when candidates can visit the burial ground to see whether they would like to volunteer to help with any of the required tasks. .

It was noted that Stephen Brackley has left his tree survey work with Les. Jane agreed to upload the survey to the website and Jean will pass it on to Sue Wrathmell for her research.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has confirmed that it will include Raikes Road Burial Ground in its application for grant funding for its Natural Links project.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th July at 7.00 pm