



## The Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RAIKES ROAD BURIAL GROUND held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012, 3 pm at Skipton Town Council Offices, Barclay's Bank Chambers, Skipton.**

Present: Jean Robinson, Steven Brackley, Isabel Warren, Hazel Bulcock, Les Chandler (Skipton Town Council) and Wendy Brown (Skipton Town Council).

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Stephanie Carter

#### 2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were approved by the Committee members present at that meeting.

It was resolved to discuss all Officer Posts at an Annual General Meeting to be arranged.

#### 3. Trees

Tony Binns, Tree Surgeon, has identified the extent of the tree work required and is in the process of seeking approval from Craven District Council.

The group discussed whether the Beech tree to be felled could be utilised within the burial ground and resolved to discuss at a future date where it could be positioned in order to attract wildlife.

Jean has secured consent to fell the Beech tree and has contacted Sue Wrathmell from Holy Trinity Church Diocese Committee about getting approval for the remainder of the tree work. Jean reported that the Diocese might be agreeable to awarding one faculty for all maintenance work required.

#### 4. Gravestone Safety

John Blades who inspects the grave stones at Holy Trinity and Christ Church has looked around the site and will compile a report detailing which stones require stabilisation work.

It was resolved that once the report is received by Jean she will distribute it amongst members of the group.

#### 5. Ongoing and planned work

The following tasks were identified:

- Tree work required
- Gravestone Safety
- Footpath route and type. Members discussed the possibility of providing a board walk over the boggy parts of the site.
- Excavation of the mound where the mortuary was sited.
- The provision of interpretation panels and where to provide them.
- Planting of trees and plants
- Provision of Seating
- The possible arrangement of a Geophysical investigation.
- Initial clearance and tidying of the site
- Compilation of a leaflet
- Lichen survey

It was resolved that a management plan needed to be drawn up. Les and Jean would liaise to discuss.

#### 6. Promoting and expanding the Friends' Group

##### Website

As the gentleman who had volunteered to assist with setting up the website now had a full time job he was unable to help, although he had submitted various ideas and suggestions for the proposed website. It was resolved that Les would contact the Volunteer Centre and ask if they still had the advert requesting assistance and would also investigate whether Moonfruit could provide the domain. Steven advised that he was happy to deal with matters relating to the website in the meantime and would contact Brett Butler at the Town Council offices to discuss.

##### Promoting and advertising

The group discussed promoting the Friends at Holy Trinity Church and resolved that Jean would ask the Administrator at the church to place a short piece in their Newsletter detailing what the group do and how to become a member.

Jean would contact the Craven Herald to discuss promoting the ground, perhaps with a centrefold letting readers know about the history of the site and the families buried there.

An Open Day would be arranged for the spring.

A Leaflet and guide would need to be compiled. Stephanie has put a draft guide together and a leaflet will be devised similar to one used for the Wilderness Woods.

The Kipling Society will be contacted to let them know about the group and any updates regarding the site.

#### 7. Joining fee

It was agreed to discuss this matter at an Annual General Meeting of the group to be arranged.

#### 8. Natural Links

A group made up of representatives from various organisations including the Town Council, Wildlife Trust and North Yorkshire County Council has been set up to secure grant funding for green spaces in the town. They would be meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and members of the group were welcome to attend although Les would be in attendance and would report back to the group.

#### 9. Letterhead and logos

Members of the group were happy with the letterhead used for the website advertisement and it was resolved to continue using it.

#### 10. Any Other Business

Jean advised the group that Natural England have a scheme where sites can apply to be formally named a nature reserve. It was resolved that Jean and Steven would liaise to find out if this is worth looking into further.

#### 11. Date of next meeting

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 2 pm