



The Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RAIKES ROAD BURIAL GROUND held on Friday 29th June 2012, 3 pm at Skipton Town Council Offices, Barclay's Bank Chambers, Skipton.

Present: Jean Robinson, Geoff Sharwood-Smith, Stephanie Carter, Ann Wilkinson (Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax), Beth Sharwood-Smith, Steven Brackley, Les Chandler (Skipton Town Council) and Wendy Brown (Skipton Town Council).

1. Vision - what we want for the Burial Ground

The Friends agreed that a detailed Constitution should be written up to include the process for becoming a member of the Group along with the Group's objectives.

A list of priority tasks for the Burial Ground would be written by Les and Jean.

2. Officers

The group agreed to appoint the following members as Officers pro-tem:

Chairman – Jean Robinson
Conservation Officer – Steven Brackley

Jean would approach Hazel Bulcock to ask if she would be interested in being appointed as Member Liaison Officer.

The posts of Treasurer, Education Officer and Secretary would be appointed at a future date when the group was larger.

3. Surveys

It was noted that various Surveys had been received, one suggesting that some of the trees were diseased and therefore would have to be felled. It was also noted that a Lichen Survey would need doing.

It was resolved that a Management Plan should be compiled which would put together findings in the Reports received and highlight any further Surveys required.

4. Gravestone safety

Jean would contact John Blades regarding him doing an Annual Survey.

5. Visits

Insurance had not yet been obtained therefore visitors could not see the Burial Ground yet.

It was mentioned that once visitors were allowed in the Burial Ground specific Open Days could be arranged on a limited basis.

Access at the entrance to the Burial Ground had been blocked by a vehicle frequently parking there. Les had written to the owner of the vehicle on behalf of the Town Council in which he had requested that they refrain from parking there. A drop-down bollard would be installed if the driver persistently offended.

The Group considered providing a viewing area at the gate the disabled.

6. Promoting and expanding the Friends' Group

The Group considered promoting the burial ground with a newsletter and various other promotions. It was agreed that a website should be set up. Les would request assistance with this from the Volunteer Centre.

Celebrities such as Alan Titchmarsh or Blake Morrison could be asked to become Patrons of the Group.

The possibility of the Friends attending Heritage Day in September and/or having a stall at events in the Town Centre was considered by the Group. Geoff would see if any of his contacts were interested in donating money.

Jean stated she would arrange to place a spread about the Burial Ground in the Craven Herald with a few surnames from the graves included as they may be ancestors of local people. She would also compile a booklet about the Burial Ground.

Steven agreed that he would contact the college to request assistance from the Conservation students.

Stephanie would help with publicity and leaflets. She would also contact the library to ask them to assist with promoting the Burial Ground.

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Date of next meeting

Friday 28th September at 3 pm