



The Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground

Minutes of the Meeting of the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th October 2014 at the Skipton Town Council Offices, Barclay's Bank Chambers, Skipton.

Present: Jean Robinson, Hazel Bulcock, Stephanie Carter, Les Chandler, Audrey Crossley, Norrie Earl, Peter Gallagher, Valerie Mason, Andrew Scott, Ann Wilkinson and Stuart Wilkinson.

1. Apologies for absence

Paul Norman and Robert Heseltine.

2. To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2014 were approved.
Proposed by LC and seconded by PG.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

LC contacted Eleanor Gouldney about taking on the responsibility for the Conservation Officer tasks. Although she expressed an interest it has not been followed up and the position remains open for now.

JR reported on a stone sculpture which has gone missing from the burial ground taken sometime in July. It is possible the theft may have occurred around the time people accessed the burial ground to view the Tour de France. LC has looked into the possibility of obtaining a resin copy of the sculpture.

Gareth Beale (University of York) will be running a workshop on Reflectance Transformation Imaging on behalf of the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group in November and two places have been made available to the FRRBG. JR asked if anyone present would like to attend the workshop. AS said he would be interested and NE knows of someone who may be interested in taking part.

4. Finance

Lesley Gould no longer wishes to continue as Treasurer. AS has offered to take on the post and LC said if those present were in agreement he would be happy to hand over the Friends bank account books etc, to AS. Proposed by JR and seconded by NE.

LC circulated an up to date (as at 14th October 2014) financial report outlining income (£0.00) and expenditure (£310.00) since 28th January 2014 with the current balance standing at £9,823.86. This does not include the expenditure incurred (since 28th January 2014) by Skipton Town Council on behalf of FRRBG which currently stands at £2,734.38. The grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) should be expended before the deadline of 28th February 2015. LC said he would consult with the HLF about carrying some of the grant money over the deadline date.

5. Ongoing and planned work

The Restoration Action Plan updated at the last quarterly meeting was reviewed:

JR has undertaken her research visit to Houghton Hillside Cemetery, Houghton Le Spring and handed LC a report for archiving.

LC presented the results of the bird survey (completed in September) which showed that all the birds recorded were resident with no summer visitors. LC highlighted that a good outcome of the bird survey was the involvement of local people, a good point to promote when pursuing future funding applications.

Images taken during the insect survey have been uploaded on to a Facebook page to enable help with identification from experts.

An archaeological investigation of the mortuary undertaken in August indicated the roof was no longer extant with the building probably fully or partially in filled. Wall lines and a ventilation shaft (flue) were also exposed. It was thought the former mortuary would warrant a more in depth excavation as part of a post-project activity.

LC confirmed that the Friends application to the Woodland Trust for a small copse pack was successful and will comprise 10 silver birch, 10 rowan and 10 wild cherry.

The work specified for the restoration of the monuments and gravestones is in hand.

SC will pull together the content for the trail guide and forward onto LC for formatting.

It was agreed that plans for the official opening ceremony should be discussed at the January 2015 meeting.

A number of other outstanding tasks will be tackled during a working party day at the burial ground (see below).

6. Working Party Day for ongoing work

It was decided to have a day on which to go on site and cover as many of the outstanding tasks as possible including the fungi survey, location of bat and bird boxes, determine where to plant the wildflowers and the new trees, determine the location of information panels and what to put on them, signage for the site entrance and siting of benches. It was proposed to hold this working party day on Sunday 2nd November 2014 commencing at 10.00am. AW will email the circulation list for volunteers and JR will liaise with LC regarding equipment needed.

7. Herbage/grazing

LC has received a request to run sheep in the burial ground. Some concern was expressed about the impact grazing sheep would have on the planting of new wildflowers and trees. As the Community Payback team have volunteered to regularly trim the grass in the burial ground it was decided not to agree to the request.

8. Insurance

The FRRGB volunteers are currently covered by Skipton Town Council's public liability insurance. JR asked if the Friends should consider taking out their own insurance particularly if the burial ground was to be opened for public access all year round. LC said he would enquire if the Town Council insurance would cover public access 24/7. May have to consider insurance cover for the benches and information panels once installed, but it was decided this was not necessary at present and will be considered at a later date.

9. Any other business

SC asked if the new Rector has been contacted yet and LC confirmed he has been in contact with her and she is in favour of the Friends activity at the burial ground. The Archdeacon is also interested and VM proposed submitting a formal invitation to the opening ceremony.

SC also enquired if the results of the burial ground survey supervised by Paul Norman were available. JR said she will follow this up.

10. Date of next meeting

To be held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7.00 pm at the Skipton Town Council Offices, Barclay's Bank Chambers, Skipton.