



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Fairground & Cemetery Committee Meeting

Thursday 30th November 2021

Headstones

Agenda item 21/042 4: To formalise a strategy for the regular inspection and monitoring of the headstones in the Parish Council Cemetery.

BACKGROUND

A recommendation was made during both an Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) training course and an NALC online course on health and safety, attended by the Assistant to the Parish Clerk, that in order to comply with health and safety requirements to both employees of the Parish Council, funeral directors and members of the public visiting the SMPC cemetery, a regular formal inspection is made to specifically check for unstable or damaged headstones that may cause injury within the cemetery.

COSTS

Normally there would be no cost to the Parish Council as the holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial is responsible for any costs incurred for the installation and upkeep of the memorial on their plot(s) in the cemetery.

Unfortunately, should an owner refuse to carry out the remedial work identified, or if the Parish Council office is not able to contact the registered owner, any works deemed to be necessary would then need to be covered by the Parish Council to remove the potential risks to people working in or visiting the cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Fairground & Cemetery Committee, with the Parish Clerk, formalize an arrangement to review the condition of all headstones within the cemetery on a six-monthly basis to ascertain if any loose or damaged memorials need remedial works to be carried out by the owners.

The Parish Council office would contact any owner directly regarding issues identified for remedial work.