

## Cemetery maintenance plan

For decision at November 2021 FPC meeting

The following proposed plan is based on agreement from the Cemetery Advisory Group, input from Friends of Freshford, James Locke and Alan Duck and previous suggestions from residents and members of the FPC.

### Cemetery mowing and planting



### Grass cutting

- First cut in March avoiding any spring flowers where appropriate. Second cut in April avoiding any spring flowers where appropriate. May through September 2 x cuts per month. October – November 1 x cut per month. Mower used on paths and grass removed. Other areas strimmed and grass left. Work party may want to rake and remove (TBC).
- Long grass areas:
  - Area A & C on map leave long until mid- July then cut. Working party to rake and remove grass.
  - Area B on map leave for 'No mow May' then cut. Working party rake/remove grass.
  - All long grass areas bounded by neat mown edges.

### Grave maintenance

- Receive and review quote from Alan Duck to remove saplings and tidy ivy, bramble and weeds from graves –work to commence as soon as possible.
- James Lock to strim any sapling / weed growth on untended graves every time cuts grass.

- Invite residents to adopt a grave to tend (see Cemetery Working Group).

### Hedge cutting

- James Locke currently cuts the East boundary hedge on the top and the cemetery side in March and July. Alan Duck is responsible for the Tynning side. Propose hedge cutting is done in February and September to avoid bird nesting season (see [RSPB](#)).
- James Locke to cut large box ball cut 2 x per year (currently only 1 x per year).

### Benches

As per cemetery advisory group. Propose 3 memorial benches.

### Gates and fencing maintenance

- Rupert to quote on mending the wooden fence (by the main gate and by the swing gate). This is urgent due to safety.
- Action metal gate repairs and painting.

### Trees

- Alan Duck to trim low branch from oak tree that is harming the gravestone.
- Review tree survey results once in to assess the silver birch near the swing gate. Do not remove unless a safety hazard.

### Enhancing flowers

- Spring bulbs including small daffodils and crocus planted in naturalistic designs in long grass areas and along boundaries as per map.
- Clematis and Honeysuckle planted along sound fencing.
- Swathes of naturalistic pollinator rich flowers in south consecrated triangle.
- Yellow rattle introduced in Autumn to reduce grass vigor and allow wildflowers to increase.

### Other works

- Alan Duck to quote on making entrance through hedge and build compost bins.
- James Locke to quote on filling in major rivets on pathways.

### Cemetery Working Group

- Initiate a Cemetery working group to tend the cemetery including raking and removing grass, enhancing wild flowers and spring bulbs. Invite residents to adopt an untended grave to tend. Provide guidance and rules (no pesticides/herbicides, plants to be pollinator rich, no invasive plants).

### Communications & on-going reviews

- Communicate agreed cemetery map and plan and put up sign boards explaining why the grass is left long during periods March and mid July).
- Set up Cemetery Advisory Group review meeting for September 2022 to review and invite residents to comment.
- PC to review findings in October 2022 meeting and set plans for 2023. Communicate this with the village.

## APPENDIX

- The wooden fence needs to be repaired particularly the first 2 runs by the top main gate and by the swing gate.
- The metal gates are looking tired, paint is flaking and metal rusting - need repairing and repainting.
- Meetings have been held individually with Alan Duck and James Locke to gain their views on the maintenance, how best to do it and their work plans.
  - James Locke's 2 year contract is up for renewal soon and he has asked that a full plan of agreed works be submitted to him so he can quote against this.
  - Both Alan and James agree that if Alan does an annual cut back of all saplings and brambles etc then James can strim them as required every time he is in (this is what he does with success at Winsley). The reason the graves have got into such a mess is because James was specifically told not to touch them (they are the responsibility of the plot holders relatives).
  - James cannot collect the cut grass after strimming and a work party will be needed to do any raking and removing. His mower does pick up on the paths.
    - First cut is in March. March – April 1 x cut per month, May – September 2 cuts per month.
  - There are many large rivets/holes on the grass paths that James can fill if requested to.
  - Currently James cuts the ball only once a year but thinks it should be cut twice.
  - Alan can make a small cut through in the hedge and build a compost heap for all the grass cuttings and other plant material.
  - Alan cuts the hedge on the Tynning side (please confirm) and James cuts the hedge on the top and the cemetery side in March and July.
    - There should be no hedge cutting between March and September for nesting birds
    - James said the hedge is getting wider making it more work for him to reach and cut – should some of this be done by Alan?