

Minutes of a Cemetery Working Party held in the Council Offices, Civic Hall Square, Shildon on Thursday, 18th August, 2022.

Present: Councillors L Mather, S Townsend, J Graham, P Quinn and S Quinn

In attendance: T Bellas (Town Clerk)
G Gibson (Direct Works Manager)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Childs, D Reynolds, K Ambrosini, H Hanatty, N Hanratty, R Nicholson and D Bell.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

3. **Letter**

Members of the Working Party were presented with correspondence received from a member of the public requesting the Council to consider allowing the use of artificial grass on grave spaces at West Road Cemetery.

Members who could not attend the Working Party Meeting provided feedback on the subject matter.

Discussion took place on artificial grass on grave spaces together with the impact on the sanctity of the cemetery and the natural environment.

The following proposal and decision were agreed to be **recommended** for consideration by the Town Council:-

- a) That the Council prohibit the use of artificial grass on grave spaces at West Road Cemetery, Shildon
- b) That this information be included within the revised draft Cemetery Information and Regulation Booklet.

4. **Cemetery Information and Regulation Booklet**

Members considered the revised draft Information booklet which is provided by the Funeral Director to the family prior to a burial taking place and then by the Town Council to the deed holder of a grave.

Members discussed the proposed amendments contained within the leaflet and the added inclusion of prohibiting the use of artificial grass on graves spaces.

The following proposal and decision were agreed to be **recommended** for consideration by the Town Council:-

- a) That the Council agree the revised draft Cemetery Information and Regulation Booklet as amended.