

GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday 1st August 2018

Item 4. b) Northbrook Cemetery Maintenance Routine

From: Andrew Deacon **Sent:** 15 June 2018 16:13

To: Martin Ayres

Subject: Battle's Over events

Dear Dr Ayres,

My husband and I attended the British Legion last evening for the above meeting organised by Frank Roberts.

At which we discussed the war graves, can you please confirm some of the following-

- there are 29 graves at Northbrook cemetery
- 20 at Godlingston
- 3 at Langton Matravers
- Confirm that the Commonwealth War Graves commission, care for these
- That either they pay the council for the upkeep or do that themselves?

We have just come back from visiting Flanders Fields, where the graves are immaculate and therefore disappointed to see the graves at Northbrook, although have had some attention, are difficult to see as the surrounding grass is very tall.

With council permission we would welcome signs as one enters the graveyards as to where each grave can be found and also the opportunity to be able to give each grave a bit more care and attention for the forthcoming events and into the future.

Yours sincerely, Thelma and Andrew Deacon

From: Martin Ayres **Sent:** 25 June 2018 18:34

To: 'Andrew Deacon'

Subject: RE: Battle's Over events

Dear Mr and Mrs Deacon

Thank you for your e-mail of 15th June. It is always good to hear from people taking an active interest in our heritage, and particularly in the commemoration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country.

In respect of your request for information, the following details have been supplied by the Commonwealth War graves Commission:

I can confirm that that there are 15 war graves in Swanage (Godlingston) Cemetery

29 in Swanage (Northbrook) Cemetery

3 in Langton Matravers Church Cemetery

I can also confirm that the CWGC makes a small financial contribution to the Town Council each year towards the cost of maintenance of those in the Swanage cemeteries.

I have passed your concerns regarding the standard of maintenance of the graves at Northbrook Cemetery to our Grounds Maintenance Team and they will take steps to ensure that they continue to meet the requirements of the CWGC. This is a summary of the current maintenance regime:

- Swanage Town Council will endeavour to maintain War Graves and the surrounding area to a high standard at all times. The maintenance regime includes:
- Grass around the Graves is to be cut fortnightly or when growth exceeds 50mm, whichever comes first.
- Graves shall be inspected for adequate bark and tidy edging at least annually.
- Barked area shall be sufficient to prevent strimming line coming into contact with Grave.
- Regular checks for litter/detritus to be carried out.
- No use of chemicals for weed control.
- Prior to special anniversaries such as Remembrance Day, extra maintenance of the War Graves shall be undertaken.
- Wreaths and floral tributes are welcomed, but shall be removed if condition becomes poor.

Whilst the Council has in the past received concerns regarding its policy of allowing the grass to grow in Northbrook Cemetery over the summer season, it has also received praise for the benefit to local wildlife. This is a list of plants that was compiled some years ago:

<http://www.swanage.gov.uk/userfiles/file/Northbrook%20Cemetery%20Plant%20List.pdf>

If you would like to suggest the style and content of signs to be displayed at the entrances to the cemeteries to inform visitors then please contact our Operations Department administration officer, Cara Johnston, who can take a look at the wording and liaise with the Operations Manager to agree how best to display the information. We have an Operations Committee meeting coming up on 25th July, and it would be good to get Council approval of this idea at that meeting if you could provide some further information before then.

From: Andrew Deacon

Sent: 14 July 2018 10:30

To: Martin Ayres

Subject: STC meeting 25th July

We should like to put these questions forward:

1. We have been informed that STC receive £440 from the CWGC to care for the 47 graves, is this enough to care for them under their criteria?
2. Are there any existing families who care for their graves and if not who is looking after those?
3. How often does the operations team inspect the graveyard?
4. Would STC be prepared to allow Northbrook cemetery to be partially used as a "Living Graveyard"?
5. Would STC consider a volunteer system to improve care?

Yours sincerely, Andrew and Thelma Deacon

GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday 1st August 2018

Item 6. b)

Briefing note – Renewal of yearly membership to the National Allotment Society.

Annual membership paid by Swanage Town council is £66.00. The main support from the membership is having on-hand legal advice.

Membership benefits

- Allotmenters Liability Insurance
- Initial legal advice
- Supportive regional network
- Discounted Allotment Association insurance
- Quarterly magazine
- Discounted quality seeds
- Gardening advice

Membership fees for 2018 Individual members - £23 per year

- Allotment societies & associations 1 - 10 members, £30.00 per year
- Associations with over 10 members, £3.00 per member, per year. The National Allotment Society cannot accept membership applications from associations who knowingly under-affiliate their members.
- Life members - £500
- Schools - £10 per year
- Local authorities - £55 + VAT per year
- Land owners - £55 +VAT per year

Action required: To determine whether it is desirable to renew the annual membership to the National Allotment Society at a current cost of £66.

Cara Johnston
Operations Department Administration Officer
June 2018

GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday 1st August 2018

Item 7. a)

Briefing note – Proposed Community Activity Path and Park Run.

Further to discussion at the March 2018 Monthly Council meeting. The following proposal has been put forward by local residents, Richard Cook and Peter Smith. They will be in attendance during public participation time to answer any questions that members may have.

Introduction

In late 2017, a small group of Swanage based runners and joggers started to look at the feasibility of bringing the increasingly popular Parkrun to a venue in Swanage. Parkrun is a free, weekly, 5 kilometre timed run.

Several locations were visited including Day's Park & Durlston but it was immediately apparent on visiting King George's Field that this was the obvious choice. It also has the added advantages of car parking and facilities.

On putting together a 5 kilometre run utilising King George's field & Forres field, it was noticed that water logging was a problem in several places of the proposed route. Other visits were made to ensure that the water problems were not short lived. A large group of some 100 plus runners would de-grass some parts of the proposed track within a short time period.

It was suggested to us that if our efforts were put towards the idea of a track roughly around the perimeter of King George's field, it could have local benefits and also form the basis for a follow on Parkrun option and any wear and tear would be reduced.

Thus, the idea of a community activity path was formed. The thoughts being that local people of all abilities including families with prams and dog walkers could all use this track in various ways towards a healthier lifestyle in a safe environment. The proposal is not for an athletics sports track.

The original group of runners are keen to see if a King George's Activity Path can be progressed that could then move on to pursuing the goal of a Swanage based Parkrun option.

Phase 1: A Swanage parkrun using King George's and Forres Field, starting in the spring with minimal ground works

Phase 2: The installation of a path in the south/east corner of King George's field to deal with the water logging issues

Phase 3: The all-weather multi-use community activity path for greater all year community use

Action required: The Committee is asked to give this preliminary consideration prior to further discussion at a future Council meeting



Mrs Jennifer Huntley

Swanage

Attention Mayor Mike Bonfield

Dear Sir

As a member of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of GB and N. Ireland, I recently attended the National Conference held at BIC. (Two thousand ladies attended conference for three days from all over the country.) At this conference one of the motions passed with a large majority was the following:-

To promote appropriate signage in Public Toilets throughout the country, thus helping people to maintain their independence and dignity.

The above is particularly important for those in our communities suffering from dementia. Knowing that Swanage is trying to become a DEMENTIA FRIENDLY town I took it upon myself to check our two main public toilet blocks.

I was not impressed with my findings. Firstly I came across a sign which even I found confusing. It points to a picture of a "GENT" and states "LADIES"! Inside the toilet is the main problem. No signage at all. A person with dementia comes out from the cubicle to be confronted with lots of doors in front of them (these are the reflections of the doors in the mirrors) and turns round and sees more doors. Where is the way out? No exit signs or way out signs. This can lead to a very confused person in the toilets and their carer outside as they are of the opposite gender. Signs showing where to wash hands would also be useful.

These points are small but can cause misery to a person on a trip out. Everyone needs the loo at some time and we all like to use them with dignity and independence as long as possible.

To rectify this would cost only a few pounds and a little time and thought. Please could we please, as a Club (Swanage & Purbeck Inner Wheel Club) ask for this to be brought before the relevant persons. We try as a Club to fundraise on behalf and serve the vulnerable within our area, but believe it is sometimes the "will to understand the vulnerable in society" that encourages change for the better.

Thank you for your anticipated help in this matter.

Jenny Huntley
Treasurer, Inner Wheel Club of Swanage & Purbeck

