

## **Agenda Item 11 – Scattering of Ashes, Willand Cemetery**

### ***Scattering of ashes timeline and current position:***

- In July 2024, the Parish Council approved the scattering of ashes in a designated area of the Cemetery and that a charge of £75 be made for this service for residents and double for non-residents in keeping with other charges, minute 1107/11. The Cemetery Working Group were tasked with developing proposals as to the area to be designated, the number and types of trees and hedging to be planted and the specification for memorial posts.
- In September 2024 the area at the top right hand side of the Cemetery extension was approved for the scattering of ashes with three trees and a hedge to be planted to screen the spoil behind, minute 1209/14.
- In October 2024 the costs for the trees and hedge planting were approved, minute 1010/14. A DCC Locality Grant was also obtained for £500 towards the cost of this and the wildflower area planting. The trees and hedging were planted in the Autumn and the wildflower area the following Spring.
- In June 2025, the Cemetery Working Group's report was presented to Full Council, the report stated that the new hedge had not yet grown sufficiently to hide the spoil and vegetation behind. The Handyman tidied and strimmed the area on the clerk's instructions. The group also proposed that a wicker fence be erected to screen the spoil but Council subsequently decided not to proceed with this.
- To date the Clerk has received no requests for the scattering of ashes. If any requests are received then they can be approved to be scattered in the designated area at the cost already agreed by Council.
- The charges for scattering of ashes as agreed by Council have now been added onto the Cemetery Fees list. The Cemetery rules and regulations have also been amended to reflect the availability of this service, the process and the area designated.

### ***Memorials:***

- A specification for the memorial posts was provided and it was agreed that good quality "rustic" posts were to be used and quotes obtained. A charge of £25 was approved for the fixing of memorial plaques to the posts. Minute 1206/13 refers. After some difficulty in being able to find anyone able or willing to provide memorial posts of the agreed style, quality and type, a quote was eventually obtained. The quote to

provide and install was £632.18. After considering the cost Council “resolved not to erect memorial posts in the cemetery scattering of ashes area for the time being” – September 2025, minute 1109/15. It was suggested that when the Parish Council is approached by a family to scatter ashes, they would be asked whether a) they would want a plaque for their loved one and b) if they did what would they want the plaque to go on.

- If following the scattering of ashes the family/families wish to have the option of a memorial then the provision of a post or other suitable medium will need to be approved by Council.
- It should be noted that it has been agreed that plaques would have to be provided by the family and will have to conform to an appropriate quality, style and type to be agreed. This will be set out in the Cemetery rules and regulations.
- As the Handyman’s hourly rate is £30 per hour it is **recommended** that the fee to affix a plaque is aligned to this hourly rate going forward. The fee will be added to the fees list once an appropriate medium to fix the plaques to is in place.

**Debbie Bird**  
**Willand Parish Clerk**  
**February 2026**