

## **Agenda Item 7.6**

### **Parish Council land near the Arboretum**

This land was gifted to the PC in 2017 for the benefit of the people of the Parish. It is currently planned that the land will be gifted to the Church to form an extension to the existing Churchyard. The PC has decided that it does not wish to manage a churchyard open for burials and cremated remains. In spite of this agreement the local Joint Church Council is still debating whether or not it wishes to accept the land transfer and maintain an open burial ground.

In the meantime the PC has agreed that the ground should be used temporarily to create a Community Garden, currently conceived as a Garden of Peace and Reflection. I have been leading on this project for the PC and have, so far, recruited four volunteers plus myself to carry forward the work.

I am not clear now whether the Church is capable of supporting or willing to continue with this project. I am seeking clarification from Sue Browne and the Revd Collins.

The PC has granted the Church £1000 in this financial year to set up the garden. The PC will need to review this allocation should the Church withdraw its support for the project.

The land was given to the PC on condition that we maintain the land and its fencing. The grass is currently over five feet high. I am seeking a quote from the man we use to clear overgrown footpaths. I hope to have an estimate shortly but the cost of strimming is likely to be over double the £65 allocated in this year's budget.

The entrance way fencing and fencing posts have collapsed. The sixty yard fence that separates the land from the Arboretum also requires substantial repair and about half the retaining posts are broken. I have obtained two quotations for the work required to repair the fence and install proper gates. The higher of the two quotes is unrealistic and does not cover the work that needs doing. The lower of these quotes at £2k is realistic given the work required but much higher than the allocated budget of £500.

I propose :-

1. The PC seek urgent clarification from the Church as to whether it wishes to accept the transfer of the land.
2. Should the Church no longer wish to accept the transfer of the land then the PC seek clarification from John Quicke on whether he will allow access to the land via the Arboretum to enable the land to be used for other purposes.
3. Should John Quicke be agreeable to alternative plans and a change of access then the PC continue with its current plans to create a Community Garden.
4. Should John Quicke not be agreeable to access via the Arboretum then the PC establish with him what can be done with the land.

5. Should the Community Garden project proceed the PC will need to identify the additional money (currently £1500) required to repair the fencing and install gates.
6. In the meantime the PC needs to agree up to an additional £100 to cut the grass.

Graeme Barnell

25<sup>th</sup> June 2025