

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 11 March 2024

Title: Closed Churchyards Update

Contact Officer: Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

Background

There are currently two series of works underway in the closed churchyards. The first is repairs to a 40-metre section of the west boundary wall, running alongside the glebe of St Mary's Church. The second is repairs to the entrance arch and pillars of Holy Trinity Church. The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the progress of these works.

Current Situation

St Marys Boundary Wall

The works to St Mary's boundary wall requires a faculty, the application for which has been ongoing since the 21 December 2022. It is now entering its final stage of faculty approval. The 28-day public notice period has been posted and once complete it will pass to the Chancellor to make his determination for final approval.

Holy Trinity Arch Repairs

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Holy Trinity need to make final approval on these works for Witney Town Council to make final submission. A full series of works has been issued to Holy Trinity's PCC once minutes and approval are submitted Witney Town Council will then submit for the Archdeacon's determination.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Council approved the budget increase to £16,000, 4036/303 for closed churchyard, property maintenance at the Hall Cemeteries & Allotments meeting on the 6 November 2023. This budget was increased to cover the works at Holy Trinity.
- £10,000 from the budget 4036/303 is rolled into a fund to cover the works at St Mary's boundary Wall.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following: