

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 8 July 2024

Title: Cemetery Mapping

Contact Officer: Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

Background

In the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotments meeting on the 22nd of January 2024, committee approved the marking out of future burial plots at Windrush Cemetery. At the time of the meeting, a quote was supplied from the Council's cemetery mapping supplier of £2,500.00 ex VAT. This quote was supplied to the Operation and Estates Advisor in 2022 and since officers have been requested an updated quote from Cemetery Design Services.

Current Situation

A new quote has now been received for datum marking the new burial sections of Windrush. That quote has come in significantly higher than the original quote. Officers are unsure exactly what the extent of the original quote was for. The number of datum makers referenced in that quote and the status of the cemetery at the time officers understand that the marking out was for section G, an area now almost full and an extension to section H.

The new quote is to datum mark three new sections of the cemetery, a large extension to section H and two new sections I and J. This will require a total of 65 datum markers against the original 35 quoted for. New information gained on the cemetery has made it essential to bury across multiple areas to best tackle the poor ground conditions in the winter. And with the consistent demand for burials and reservations, the requirement for Witney Town Council to move into these areas is required before the end of the year.

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.

The council will have to start using the extension to section H and new sections I and J in 2024, if not datum marked finding the correct burial locations will be labour intensive and could

lead to lost burial ground through incorrect plot identification. This problem has affected the council in the past and the solution of datum markers should prevent it.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- There is an earmarked reserve for the internal layout of Windrush Cemetery with a balance of £93,853.
- Cost to datum mark three new burial sections a total of 65 datum poles marking out 422 new graves for 844 total burials; £6215.00 ex VAT

Recommendations

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

1. To agree to commissioning the datum marking of Windrush Cemetery.