

Minutes of the Bonsall Burial Ground Working Group 15th April 2021

At Burial Ground St James Church

Present: Phil Addis, Mick Biggin, Mark Harris, Tony Payne (Clerk).

1. **Risk Assessment:** noted that the last risk assessment visit was undertaken 27th June 2019 due to Covid restrictions 2020.
2. The whole area of the churchyard as worked by Mick Biggin was covered in order to assess employee risk (excluding the DDDC area which is not mowed by Mick). The risk assessment documentation for the churchyard dated June 2019 was reviewed. Points noted as follows:
 - **Gravestones:** all leaning grave stones in the closed area were tested for stability. No issues identified; the older stones with a steeper angle of lean have deep foundations.
 - **The flat tomb** adjacent to the long steps below the church was inspected; this was reported on 10th April by the churchwarden as having been attempted to be moved by vandals; MB said that he did not think they had been successful. Agreed not a risk issue.
 - **A plinth** just below the church adjacent to the long steps had jutting ironwork where the stone structure had been removed; agreed to level off to prevent fall injury risk **(MB)**
 - **The wall adjacent to the park gate** was bowing out but had not deteriorated further.
 - **First Aid kit** in shed checked. Noted that the shed roof was beyond repair and as previously approved by the Parish Council a new shed is to be purchased **(TP/MB)**.
 - **Ash trees:** there are a number of ash trees which are showing signs of ash dieback, although none have shed significant branches so as to prevent an immediate danger. However, the Parish Council needs to budget for additional tree work in the churchyard. The trees were inspected by Chris Payne DDDC Tree Officer with Mick Biggin in the last 18 months, and none were identified as immediate risks. **All ash trees** including the weeping ashes will continue to be monitored **(MB)**.
 - **The old closed area** where tree work on the cliffs was undertaken in 2019 has been left with a section of more open edge to the cliff above Yeoman Street. Noted that MB has been planting this to fill in the gap **(MB)**.
3. **Recommendations to the Parish Council:** to note outcome and action taken.

Tony Payne Clerk / RFO

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