



Introduction

The gate in the burial ground on the side of St Michaels Church is in disrepair, it is rotten in areas and is now often left wide open as it is difficult to open and close due to the weight as well as the general state. It is proposed to replace the gate with a like for like gate utilising the existing gate furniture and posts where appropriate.

Position and Design

A wooden gate will replace the existing gate and will replicate what is currently in place to ensure that it stays within the design of the existing burialground. Best endeavours will be made to utilise any of the existing posts and furniture to keep the costs down.

See appendix A for photos of current gate.

Requirements

In line with the current approved Financial Regulations which dictate *that the Clerk shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers*. The Clerk has contacted 3 local fencing firms to provide an estimate.

Each were asked to quote for a like for like replacement utilising existing posts and furniture where appropriate and were given photos and invited to attend a site visit, which all accepted and attended a site visit.

Benefit

The gate will replace the current rotten gate and will ensure that the burialground continues to look well maintained. The gate will also be able to be closed easily.

Cost

It was originally anticipated and budgeted for £2000 in last years 2023/24 budget but it was not spent due to time and other priorities so the money was moved into the earmarked reserves pot at the end of the financial year. The final estimate which will not exceed £1500 will cover the gate, installation, removal of existing gate, and contingency. This estimate when accepted and approved will come from our CIL money which sits in our reserves and meets the requirements for improving local infrastructure. The power of maintaining a burial ground (open Spaces Act 1906) will be utilised.

To allow us to move forward on this and referring to the Financial Regulations where individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:

- the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council and Finance Group, for any items below £2,000 excluding VAT.

Such authorisation must be supported by a minute (in the case of council or committee decisions) or other auditable evidence trail.

Recommendation

The Clerk is requesting the following approvals to be made at the 3rd June 2024 Parish Council Meeting to allow this project to move forward.

To approve the need to replace the burial ground gate.

To approve the delegated authority to make the decision to accept an estimate and make the order of the gate with the Chair and Finance Group approval in line with the Financial Regulations.

To approve the release and spend of up to £1500 which will come out of the CIL funding which sits in our earmarked reserves, if the cost is higher it will come back to full council.

Acknowledgement that an update will be given when appropriate and the invoice will be shown at appropriate Council meeting for payment and ratification.

Appendix A

Photos of the current gate:



