

Subject:	Cemetery maintenance	
From:	Liz Reason	
Date:	214/08/2023	
For information See report below		
Summary of decisions or actions requested: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pay for a Business Licence so that we can install sufficient bins for both green and non-green waste.2. Set up a working party to clear the badly overgrown graves, OR3. Pay for the graves to be properly cleared4. Plant up the area behind the partition stone wall next to the farm gate on the nature reserve land.		
Financial implications: Currently paying £90 p/a (2 garden waste licences) Recommend 4 green bins and 2 waste bins: 2 waste bins (each 360-litre equivalent to 4-5 bags) emptied fortnightly = £312 p/a Awaiting confirmation for green bins.		

A Charlbury resident offered to assist with moving the waste bins at the cemetery. She also asked whether the council had reduced the number of cuts between the graves because she was concerned that it can sometimes be hard to navigate molehills and uneven ground when the grass is longer.

I explained that we had not changed the cutting regime, other than to leave some areas of the cemetery – away from graves – to encourage more insect and plant biodiversity. I explained that uneven ground is to be expected in a what is effectively a rural cemetery.

We also discussed that state of the overflowing bins and the failure of many to separate out the green waste from plastic, paper and other waste. To reach the bins from the end far from the entrance is also a long way to have to carry material. We concluded that we should have several bins located in different parts of the cemetery, with green and non-green waste clearly marked. This involves us moving to a Business licence.

We also discussed the state of many of the (largely) older graves with brambles and self-seeded trees growing through them. I have often raised the need to clear these to be more respectful and to stop the growth compromising nearby graves. This could be achieved by a volunteer working party, or we could employ someone to do the clearing. I estimate that around twenty-five graves need special treatment.

The resident suggested that someone might volunteer on a regular basis to keep graves clear.

Bourton-on-the-water council has just given all those tending graves (or not – many are not visited) one month's notice that it intends to remove and dispose of all plastic flowers and non-plant items from all graves. I don't think we should adopt such a policy, but I think we could show an additional level of care which is respectful of those who are regular and new users of the cemetery.

