

BAINBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT ON THE CEMETERY FOR THE YEAR 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
Burials	£365.00	Superintendent's Fees	272.00
Ashes interment	£110.00	Grass Cutting	800.00
Plaque on Memorial Stone	Nil	Maintenance/Repairs	1,555.00
Memorials Placed	£220.00		
Reservation Fees	£385.00		
TOTAL	<u>£1,080.00</u>	TOTAL	<u>£2,627.00</u>

DEFICIT FOR YEAR £1,547.00

During the year 2024/25 there was only one burial in the Cemetery. In addition, there were two interment of ashes, seven grave reservations and four memorials were placed via the official process. However, I am aware that some memorials seem to have 'appeared' without any approach to me for permission and payment. The Garden of Rest has not been used.

During the growing season, the grass was cut eight times by John Banks of Hawes. He does a good job and the Cemetery always looks well cared for.

Also during the year, Metcalfe Ground Services were engaged to undertake repairs and maintenance in the Cemetery, including repairs to the boundary walls and storm damage clearance and repairs.

From a visual check, it is clear that the ground is very uneven with graves sinking as they settle. In addition, some headstones are less than stable. I would recommend that the Parish Council undertakes their own inspection and considers any remedial work or signage they feel necessary to address the situation and alert those using the Cemetery of the hazards.

Once again, the bins are not being used and there are times when old wreaths and flowers remain in situ beyond the time when they are appealing to see.

The Garden of Rest area with the Memorial Stone and bench would benefit from a tidying up. Unfortunately, this is in a very shady area and is therefore not appealing for visitors to linger in.

The Cemetery plan has been updated and a new copy is sited on the wall of the Sexton's hut in the Garden of Rest.

Again, I would recommend that the Parish Council considers the placing of one or more benches in the Cemetery. This has been mentioned to me by people using the Cemetery and wishing to pause there. In good weather, there are areas which would benefit from the placing of a bench to allow visitors to rest and reflect.

The Parish Council continues to set aside funds which are 'ring fenced' for the future development of the Cemetery. This fund currently amounts to £11,531.20.

In regard to future planning, the Parish Council is aware that there are currently a total of 93 vacant plots in the Cemetery, of which 64 are reserved (although some are known to be unlikely to be needed).

Consequently, the Parish Council have been in discussions with the owner of the adjoining field with a view to purchasing a parcel of land to allow an extension to the existing Cemetery. These discussions are ongoing and the Council now awaits a land survey to ensure that the land is appropriate for future burials (ie, has sufficient depth of soil). A significant number of vacant plots in the existing Cemetery have been taken out of use as the area they lie in will be needed to provide access around the Cemetery and potentially into the new extension. In that respect, I have been avoiding the use of any of these spaces which is restricting the options of vacant plots. Hopefully, it will not take long to establish a firm way forward for the extension so that it can be clarified which plots can or can't be used.

I would like to express my thanks to the Parish Council for their support in allowing me to continue in the role of Superintendent of the Cemetery.

Karen Prudden
Superintendent to Bainbridge Cemetery
May 2025