

# GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

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30 August 2019

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU to attend the **JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE** meeting to be held in Godalming Council Chamber on THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 5.45pm. The meeting will be preceded by an inspection of **Nightingale Cemetery** at 5.00pm.

Andy Jeffery  
Clerk to the Committee

Committee Members:

- Councillor Martin
- Councillor Neill
- Councillor Purvis – Vice Chair
- Councillor PS Rivers
- Councillor Steel – Chair
- Councillor Stubbs
- Councillor Long (Busbridge Parish Council)
- Councillor Westwood (Busbridge Parish Council)

## A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

The Chair to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2019.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To receive from Members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the Agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

4. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair to allow members of the public to ask the Council questions, or make a statement or present a petition. This forum to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 5.

5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To consider any questions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

6. ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE LAST MEETING & SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – ITEM FOR DECISION

**Recommendation – Members to resolve to authorise the Committee Chair to sign the schedule of accounts.**

Clerk to report on the accounts paid since the last meeting.

Members of the Public have the right to attend all meetings of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee and are welcome.

A schedule of the accounts paid will be tabled for the information of Members. The vouchers relating to these payments will also be tabled at the meeting for inspection. All payments made are in line with the agreed budget or other resolution of this Committee or Full Council.

Members to agree that the Chair should sign the schedule of accounts paid.

7. **SIGNING OF BANK RECONCILIATIONS – ITEM FOR DECISION**

**Recommendation – Members to resolve to authorise the Committee Chair to sign the bank reconciliations.**

The Committee to consider the tabled monthly bank reconciliations since the last meeting of the Committee and authorise the Committee Chair to sign them.

8. **BUDGET MONITORING – ITEM FOR NOTE**

Members to consider a budget monitoring report to 31 July 2019 (detailed report attached for the information of Members).

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Year to date Variance</b>	<b>Projected Variance @ year end</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Administration & Overheads	43 u/s	1,000 u/s
Eashing Cemetery	2,177 u/s	0
Eashing Chapel	342 o/s	0
Eashing Lodge	125 u/s	0
Nightingale Cemetery	7,831 u/s	7,200 u/s
Nightingale Chapel	31 u/s	0
Nightingale Lodge	2,277 o/s	2,000 o/s
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,588 u/s</b>	<b>6,200 u/s</b>

The monitoring report shows a current variance of £8,432 underspend against budget.

- The Administration & Overheads – having revalued JBC properties for insurance purposes last year, this Committee was able to put its Insurance out to tender for the 2019/20 financial year which resulted in savings of £1,100. The new contract is a three year contract.
- Eashing Cemetery – we have had a large number of grave purchases this quarter which are always difficult to predict.
- Nightingale Cemetery – we do not budget for any revenue at Nightingale as it has limited availability (until our digitising work is complete), so all revenue is treated as a windfall.
- Nightingale Lodge – this Committee did some garden clearance works at the Lodge to ensure the Cemetery aspect was maintained.

9. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE – ITEM FOR NOTE**

Members to receive a report from the Clerk regarding the recruitment of Godalming Town Councils directly employed buildings and maintenance staff.

10. RE-WILDING – EASHING CEMETERY – ITEM FOR DECISION

**Recommendation: Members to resolve to approve:**

- 1. The reduction of laurel trees adjacent to the Ockford Ridge Site B and the areas around the Old Garden of Remembrance.**
- 2. The creation of wildflower meadows within Eashing Cemetery.**

**Introduction:** The proposal below would form part of Waverley Borough Council's (WBC) Community Benefit Programme (CBP) with its appointed contractor for site B (21-34) Ockford Ridge. Construction works for this site are planned to start in autumn next year, at which time WBC and its contractor will commence such community projects, to run over the duration of the main construction programme.

The CBP has been initiated on the estate with site A, to exploit the investment focus of house-building in the community so that local residents and stakeholders can enjoy some wider benefits from WBC's investment, through its build contractor. With site A, this has enabled, amongst other initiatives, maintenance work to be carried out on the Scout and Guide building and St Marks Community Centre.

The CBP is intended as an ongoing partnership between WBC, its contractors and the communities in which it delivers new, affordable housing. The wildflower meadow scheme and re-wilding at Eashing Cemetery reflects an ideal opportunity for WBC to work with the Godalming Joint Burial Committee as a new stakeholder in an appropriate location and for specific, relevant needs.

**Background:** Currently the swards surrounding the formal burial areas of Eashing Cemetery consist mainly of wild grass with areas of bracken and brambles towards the outer boundaries. Whilst in the earlier years of the cemetery, when this area formed the majority of the land, the wild grasses did provide a hay crop, which a local farmer would purchase, in recent years the reduced area has made this an uneconomical process. As such, the twice yearly cutting and removal of the wild grasses has been at the Joint Burial Committee's expense.

With this area no longer forming part of the economic model of the cemetery operation, Members are requested to consider the proposal put forward in collaboration with the Housing Development Team of WBC.

**Proposal:** The redevelopment of site B (21-34) Ockford Ridge, adjoins Eashing Cemetery boundary and provides a great opportunity for new social housing and the enhancement of the local habitat and its biodiversity. Whilst onsite enhancements will provide some biodiversity, concerns remain regarding a biodiversity deficit.

To address this deficiency and the limited scope on site to add a wider range of plants, it is proposed to create a wildflower meadow over the site boundary, in Eashing cemetery, all within 100m of the site and the estate.

The outline proposal and a map of the areas to be considered for the creation of wildflower meadows are attached for the information of Members. Whilst the area adjacent to site B extends to approximately 2 acres, the wider scheme would see an area of up to 6 acres within the cemetery being converted from grass to wildflower meadow.

In considering this proposal, Members will wish to note that the creation of wildflower meadows around the boundary of Eashing Cemetery will not impact on the operation of the formal burial areas, but will it is believed, greatly enhance the visual appearance, whilst adding to the ambience of peace and tranquillity that already exists within the cemetery grounds.

Of the current unused burial land within the cemetery, an estimated 35 year supply would become wildflower meadow. Although under current burial management models this area would eventually be returned to provide for future burial ground needs, grounds maintenance practices, such as those adopted at Nightingale Cemetery, could see the older parts of the 'formal' burial ground being re-designated as wildflower areas, hence maintaining the overall level of land providing a habitat for pollinating insects and other invertebrates.

**Costs:** The main cost of creating wildflower meadows lies in the preparation of the ground. Whilst it is anticipated that an initial contribution to the cost of the establishing works would be forthcoming via WBC, the future maintenance and upkeep costs would lie with the Joint Burial Committee. However, it is expected that in the longer term, maintenance costs of the wildflower meadows would be in line with the current costs of managing the existing grass areas within the cemetery.

As part of the overall proposal, WBC would also be removing/reducing the larger parts of the laurel hedging along the Ockford Ridge boundary and around the old Garden of Remembrance so that, as in other areas of the cemetery, a more bio-diverse flora and fauna can be established in its place. The cost of this work to be borne by WBC.

**Educational Benefit:** Subject to further discussions, if Members agree to the project, the Eashing Cemetery wildflower meadow project could provide a suitable site for the Centre of Environmental Engineering and Conservation of the University of Surrey graduate students to use for research and dissertation projects.

From this it is hoped that educational opportunities could also be made available to local schools and colleges.

#### 11. GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE – ITEM FOR DECISION

**Recommendation: Members to resolve to approve:**

- 1. The reduction of hedging around the Garden of Remembrance in order to provide a more open and pleasant vista.**
- 2. The repair and repainting of the Garden of Remembrance boundary railings.**
- 3. The allocation of £2,500 from the cemetery reserve as a contingency for the completion of the works.**

Members will be aware from their previous site visit that to create an increased biodiverse environment and to open the vista of the old Garden of Remembrance (GoR) which, in turn would make it a more pleasant place to visit, it is proposed to remove the laurels surrounding the GoR and to reduce the height of the hedging facing onto Franklyn Road. Whilst, as set out in the previous agenda item, the removal of the laurels would form part of the JBC and WBC biodiversity scheme, the reduction of other hedges surrounding the GoR would be a JBC responsibility.

If Members agree to this scheme, the reduction of the hedges would take place between September and March to avoid the main breeding season for nesting birds. It is anticipated that the proposed height reduction of the beech, privet and thorn hedges will be contained within the overall grounds maintenance budget of Eashing Cemetery.

On inspecting those areas of the railings that can be seen through the existing hedges, the boundary railings appear to be in a fairly good condition, however, a fuller appreciation of the condition of the railings will only be available once the hedges are reduced. As such, in order for any repairs to be carried out before the start of the breeding season, Members are requested to resolve to approve the virement of up to £2,500 from the Cemeteries Maintenance Reserve, which currently stands at £60,883, as a contingency fund to support the completion of the works.

12. **CEMETERY GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – SCHEDULES & EQUIPMENT – ITEM FOR DECISION**

**Recommendation: Members to resolve to approve that:**

- 1. Up to £10,000 be allocated from the revenue reserve for the provision of grounds maintenance equipment.**
- 2. Revised maintenance schedules are submitted to this committee for approval prior to seeking appropriate contractors.**

With the engaging of a directly employed maintenance workforce, the possibility of re-wilding areas of land, thus altering the ground's maintenance regime, together with other changes to the management of the cemeteries made since the last review of the cemeteries grounds maintenance schedules, an opportunity exists to re-evaluate the grounds maintenance requirements with an aim of reducing external contractor support to two core functions, high volume grass cutting and grave digging.

Likewise, a number of maintenance operations previously undertaken by ad-hoc contractors will now be undertaken in-house. These include: ashes plot interment preparations, memorial maintenance and inspections, cemetery maintenance (chapels), Nightingale Memorial Garden maintenance, grave levelling and cemetery boundary maintenance.

In order to maximise the benefits available through appropriate task allocation between external contractors and in-house maintenance operatives, which would enable effective and efficient use of resource, some general grounds maintenance equipment, including the provision of a suitable utility tractor will be required.

Whilst the exact equipment requirement that would enable the transfer of non-specialist operations from external contractors to in-house provision is yet to be finalised, in order to be able to implement the operational changes as efficiently as possible, which will allow for the implementation of revised external contractor specifications for 2020/2021, Members are requested to resolve to approve an expenditure of up to £10,000 for the purchase of maintenance equipment to be funded from the revenue reserve which currently stands at £40,427.

13. **RBS CEMETERY RECORD SYSTEM – DATA ENTRY – ITEM FOR NOTE**

Data entry of the historic burial records is continuing to progress, to date 20 August 2019:

Nightingale Cemetery 3719/5587 interment records have been entered into RBS system;  
Eashing Cemetery 976/8007 interment records have been entered into the RBS system.

Nightingale Cemetery remains the priority and it is hoped that the data entry will be completed within the next 4 week. Completion of the data entry will, subject to staff resource capacity, enable the second stage of the project to begin. The second stage will link each record with a map location thus allowing identification of the groups of differing classes of graves i.e. common, private, unused etc.

14. **BURIAL STATISTICS – ITEM FOR NOTE**

Burial statistics for the previous quarter and for the current quarter up to 31 August 2019 are attached for the information of Members.

15. **COMMUNICATIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Members to identify which matters (if any), discussed at this meeting, are to be publicised.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 7 November 2019 at 5.45pm in the Council Chamber.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brought forward by permission of the Chair. Requests to be submitted prior to commencement of the meeting.

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Year to Date Budget Heading 31/07/2019

Month No : 4

## Committee Report

	Current Mth Actual	Current Mnth Budget	Current Mnth Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
<b><u>Administration &amp; Overheads</u></b>									
<b><u>401 Administration &amp; Overheads</u></b>									
4013	Other Staff Expenses	0	0	0	125	125	500		500
4103	Maintenance Contracts	0	40	40	160	160	500		500
4202	Car Allowances	44	0	-44	0	-121	0		-121
4301	Equipment	13	0	-13	0	-1,498	0		-1,498
4310	Administration Charge	0	0	0	14,840	14,841	29,682		14,842
4313	Professional Fees - Other	3,296	1,000	-2,296	4,000	704	12,000		8,704
4314	Audit Fees	219	0	-219	200	-19	800		581
4315	Insurance	0	0	0	4,870	1,172	4,870		1,172
4321	Bank Fees	10	17	7	68	0	250		182
4326	Website	0	0	0	0	-364	400		36
4327	Publicity Advertising	200	95	-105	380	-550	1,150		220
4900	Miscellaneous	0	30	30	120	120	400		400
	Administration & Overheads :- Expenditure	<b>3,782</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>-2,600</b>	<b>25,034</b>	<b>24,764</b>	<b>50,552</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,518</b>
1001	Precept - Godalming TC	0	0	0	27,418	0	54,836		
1002	Precept - Busbridge PC	0	0	0	1,640	-1	3,279		
1300	Interest	87	0	87	399	314	340		
	Administration & Overheads :- Income	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>29,457</b>	<b>29,143</b>	<b>58,455</b>		
	<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>-2,514</b>	<b>-4,422</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-7,903</b>		
	Administration & Overheads Expenditure	<b>3,782</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>-2,600</b>	<b>25,034</b>	<b>24,764</b>	<b>50,552</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,518</b>
	Income	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>29,457</b>	<b>29,143</b>	<b>58,455</b>		
	<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>-2,514</b>	<b>-4,422</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-7,903</b>		

**Eashing**

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Year to Date Budget Heading 31/07/2019

Month No : 4

## Committee Report

	Current Mth Actual	Current Mnth Budget	Current Mnth Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
<b>411 Eashing - Cemetery</b>									
4014 Sexton Duties	16	0	-16	16	0	-16	0		-16
4015 Grave Digging	48	0	-48	373	0	-373	0		-373
4102 Property Maintenance	32	40	8	32	160	128	620		588
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	800	750	-50	750		-50
4131 Rates	0	0	0	5,167	4,750	-417	4,750		-417
4141 Water Service	-75	0	75	-25	75	100	300		325
4162 Waste Removal	479	122	-357	776	488	-288	1,470		694
4171 Grounds Maintenance	1,621	3,000	1,379	11,758	12,000	242	36,500		24,742
4172 Memorial Inspection	0	165	165	0	660	660	2,000		2,000
<b>Eashing - Cemetery :- Expenditure</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>18,897</b>	<b>18,883</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>46,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,493</b>
1100 Interment	300	733	-433	3,075	2,932	143	8,800		
1101 Monument	460	183	277	920	732	188	2,200		
1102 Purchase of Grave Space	0	550	-550	3,200	2,200	1,000	6,600		
1400 Miscellaneous	0	0	0	860	0	860	0		
<b>Eashing - Cemetery :- Income</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>-706</b>	<b>8,055</b>	<b>5,864</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>17,600</b>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>10,842</b>	<b>13,019</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>28,790</b>		
<b>413 Eashing - Chapel</b>									
4102 Property Maintenance	8	0	-8	489	0	-489	0		-489
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	119	90	-29	180		61
4111 Energy Costs	0	0	0	131	125	-6	565		434



## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Year to Date Budget Heading 31/07/2019

Month No : 4

## Committee Report

	Current Mth Actual	Current Mnth Budget	Current Mnth Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
4161 Cleaning	0	44	44	64	176	112	530		466
Eashing - Chapel :- Expenditure	<u>8</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>803</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>-412</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>472</u>
1200 Rent	0	0	0	70	0	70	140		
Eashing - Chapel :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>140</u>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<u>8</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>-342</u>	<u>1,135</u>		
<b>415 Eashing - Lodge</b>									
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	0	125	125	500		500
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	100		100
4301 Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	500		500
Eashing - Lodge :- Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,100</u>
1200 Rent	1,350	1,350	0	5,400	5,400	0	16,200		
Eashing - Lodge :- Income	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,200</u>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<u>-1,350</u>	<u>-1,350</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-5,400</u>	<u>-5,275</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>-15,100</u>		
Eashing Expenditure	<u>2,129</u>	<u>3,371</u>	<u>1,242</u>	<u>19,700</u>	<u>19,399</u>	<u>-301</u>	<u>48,765</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,065</u>
Income	<u>2,110</u>	<u>2,816</u>	<u>-706</u>	<u>13,525</u>	<u>11,264</u>	<u>2,261</u>	<u>33,940</u>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<u>19</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>6,175</u>	<u>8,135</u>	<u>1,960</u>	<u>14,825</u>		

Nightingale

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Year to Date Budget Heading 31/07/2019

Month No : 4

## Committee Report

	Current Mth Actual	Current Mnth Budget	Current Mnth Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
<b>421 Nightingale - Cemetery</b>									
4014 Sexton Duties	16	0	-16	16	0	-16	0		-16
4015 Grave Digging	0	0	0	325	0	-325	0		-325
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	32	0	-32	0		-32
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	700	750	50	750		50
4131 Rates	0	0	0	249	250	1	250		1
4141 Water Service	20	0	-20	53	50	-3	200		147
4171 Grounds Maintenance	1,661	1,350	-311	4,285	5,400	1,115	16,230		11,945
4172 Memorial Inspection	0	0	0	159	0	-159	0		-159
Nightingale - Cemetery :- Expenditure	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>-347</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>17,430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,611</b>
1100 Interment	0	0	0	1,350	0	1,350	0		
1101 Monument	300	0	300	450	0	450	0		
1102 Purchase of Grave Space	1,200	0	1,200	5,400	0	5,400	0		
Nightingale - Cemetery :- Income	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>-1,381</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>7,831</b>	<b>17,430</b>		
<b>423 Nightingale - Chapel</b>									
4102 Property Maintenance	0	0	0	0	150	150	600		600
4103 Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	119	0	-119	100		-19
Nightingale - Chapel :- Expenditure	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>581</b>
1200 Rent	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000		
Nightingale - Chapel :- Income	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>		
<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-4,300</b>		

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Year to Date Budget Heading 31/07/2019

Month No : 4

## Committee Report

		Current Mth Actual	Current Mnth Budget	Current Mnth Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
	<u>425 Nightingale - Lodge</u>									
4102	Property Maintenance	320	0	-320	692	0	-692	50		-642
4103	Maintenance Contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	250		250
4161	Cleaning	0	0	0	40	0	-40	0		-40
4171	Grounds Maintenance	0	0	0	1,546	0	-1,546	0		-1,546
	Nightingale - Lodge :- Expenditure	<b>320</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-320</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,277</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,977</b>
1200	Rent	1,050	1,050	0	4,200	4,200	0	12,600		
	Nightingale - Lodge :- Income	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,600</b>		
	<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>-730</b>	<b>-1,050</b>	<b>-320</b>	<b>-1,923</b>	<b>-4,200</b>	<b>-2,277</b>	<b>-12,300</b>		
	Nightingale Expenditure	<b>2,017</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>-667</b>	<b>8,215</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>-1,615</b>	<b>18,430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,215</b>
	Income	<b>2,550</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>17,600</b>		
	<b>Net Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>-533</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>-3,185</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>5,585</b>	<b>830</b>		

## **Wildflower meadow and other works' proposal – Eashing cemetery, Ockford Ridge, Godalming**



Copyright: Lune Valley community beekeepers. No copyright infringement is intended; no monetary gain has been made

### **Background**

The redevelopment of site B (21-34) Ockford Ridge, Godalming presents a great opportunity for new social housing *and* the enhancement of the local habitat and its biodiversity: we are planning single statement trees in between parking spaces together with suitable hedging and shrub species to improve what is currently suburban gardens with limited biodiversity.

To address this deficiency and the limited scope on site to add a wider range of plants, it is proposed to create a wildflower meadow over the site boundary, in Eashing cemetery, all within 100m of the site and the estate.

Eashing Cemetery is managed by Godalming Joint Burial Committee (GJBC) on behalf of Godalming Town Council and Busbridge Parish Council.

### **Proposals in outline**

Currently, an area of sward runs around three sides of the cemetery, beyond the formal graves' area. It is proposed to return some of this area to wildflower meadows. The following reflects recent discussions on this joint borough and town council initiative. The initial phase of re-wilding would include two principle areas on

## **Wildflower meadow and other works' proposal – Eashing cemetery, Ockford Ridge, Godalming**

opposite sides of the Cemetery, shown shaded in yellow on the aerial photograph below.

As part of the monitoring, undergraduates from Surrey University would be invited under supervision to record and monitor the gradual transformation of these wild flower meadows. The detail of this aspect of the initiative has not yet been worked out.

1. The reduction of the sward using a small flock of sheep, brought in under the supervision of the GJBC, to graze down the vegetation over the next few months. Periodic grazing would be required to maintain a balanced, wildflower-friendly habitat with an end-of-year cutting and removal of mowings: *the town council supports this approach as it meets the spirit of their environmental commitments*
2. Seeding / cultivation would be minimal with some additional species introduced through small-scale turf removal in places.
3. The cemetery's Garden of Remembrance is also under review for improvement – laurel hedge reduction, semi-formal border planting and some small scale hard landscaping (paths). As part of the building contractor's community benefit works, it is proposed to include this small project as part of the wildflower meadow scheme.
4. There is a relatively dense and in places high, mainly laurel tree border between the proposed wildflower area and site B. In principle agreement has been reached between Waverley and the GJBC for the reduction of some of these higher laurel specimens, in order to remove overshadowing trees on the boundary. These works would form part of the Eashing Cemetery scheme

### **Long term maintenance and benefits**

Once created, both the wildflower meadow and the Garden of Remembrance would be managed and maintained by the GJBC, as an amenity and educational resource in equal measure, to complement the cemetery's formal burial ceremonies. Such benefits would accrue to the local community. The GJBC fully supports a sustainable approach to the works.

## Wildflower meadow and other works' proposal – Eashing cemetery, Ockford Ridge, Godalming



### Timetable and costs

Grazing, once made safe and secure by fencing, could commence in the near future once appropriate management regimes have been put in place. This would allow natural seeding and the start of the wildflower germination process to start with over-wintering of seed leading to the first flush of spring flowers ( heartsease, cowslip and primroses) followed by the majority of species flowering in summer ( cow parsley, cornflower, nettles, yellowwort and vipers bugloss) with autumn species (toadflax, poppy, thistles and harebell) completing the annual flowering. Some species are perennial and some bi-annual.

Whilst further investigations and enquiries are required regarding the ability to graze the cemetery meadows, it is hoped that, once established, it would be cost- neutral

## **Wildflower meadow and other works' proposal – Eashing cemetery, Ockford Ridge, Godalming**

to the GJBC. An initial cost for fencing off the meadow areas is estimated to be £500 - £750

Seeded turves can be widely purchased from various suppliers – often at a discount rate for local councils. The once-a-year cut would also be 'free' with the farmer removing the valuable mowings for his own use. This is a necessary [part of the management regime, since it prevents fertilisation and enrichment of the soil and therefore restrict the growth of grasses that can overwhelm wildflowers.

Sponsorship might be considered – the build contractor for site B is a natural candidate.

### **Benefits**

A wide variety of benefits would come from this project, to community and conservation stakeholders. These would include:

- Enhanced biodiversity and local habitat, with increased pollinator plants and greater insects and bird activity as a consequence
- An amenity and educational resource for the cemetery and the local community, including conservation, school and resident (gardening) groups, offering an open-air demonstration meadow that is easily accessible or all ages / interests
- Carbon-capture measures to help offset climate change pollutants for the local environment
- Consistency with current and recent national media awareness raising campaigns and headlines:



# Wildflower meadow and other works' proposal – Eashing cemetery, Ockford Ridge, Godalming

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## Featured



18 July 2019 — Press release

### [Help wildlife thrive in East Sussex's Nature Reserves](#)

Natural England is calling on the public to donate to a campaign to help restore East Sussex NNRs



11 July 2019 — Press release

### [Rare butterflies and orchids on abandoned wildlife site boosted by Natural England funding](#)

Common Moor SSSI is officially brought into a recovering condition, following improved site management for the rare Culm grassland.



10 July 2019 — News story

### [Natural England to declare a new London National Nature Reserve](#)

South London Downs will be officially declared later this month.

## Summary

The creation of wild flower meadows in Eashing Cemetery provides an excellent opportunity for this accessible and natural area of grassland to make a substantial, local and sustainable response to climate change and its threat to biodiversity in this area.

Future generations will see this small but relevant, deliverable project as something that the local community did to address these issues when it really mattered – right now.

For these reasons alone, it is recommended.



**GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Final Statistics as at 31 March 2019 and Curret Year Statistics to 31 August 2019**

**INTERMENTS**

**(a) Eashing**

Quarter Ending

30-Jun-15  
30-Sep-15  
31-Dec-15  
31-Mar-16  
30-Jun-16  
30-Sep-16  
31-Dec-16  
31-Mar-17  
30-Jun-17  
30-Sep-17  
31-Dec-17  
31-Mar-18  
30-Jun-18  
30-Sep-18  
31-Dec-18  
31-Mar-19  
30-Jun-19  
30-Sep-19  
31-Dec-19  
31-Mar-20

Godalming			Busbridge			Excepted Category			Non-Parishioners			Total		
Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total
1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	6	4	5	9
4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	2	7
4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	7	0	7
3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	6	0	6
3	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	2	6
3	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	2	7
8	1	9	0	0	0	3	1	4	1	0	1	12	2	14
3	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	3	6	3	9
3	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	5	4	9
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	3
2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	4	5	2	7
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	3	3	1	4
1	3	4	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	0	2	5	4	9
5	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	3	9
4	2	6	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	6	6	12
4	0	4	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	6	2	8
3	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	4	3	7
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	3

**(b) Nightingale**

Quarter Ending

30-Jun-15  
30-Sep-15  
31-Dec-15  
31-Mar-16  
30-Jun-16  
30-Sep-16  
31-Dec-16  
31-Mar-17  
30-Jun-17  
30-Sep-17  
31-Dec-17  
31-Mar-18  
30-Jun-18  
30-Sep-18  
31-Dec-18  
31-Mar-19  
30-Jun-19  
30-Sep-19  
31-Dec-19  
31-Mar-20

Godalming			Busbridge			Excepted Category			Non-Parishioners			Total		
Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total
1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	4
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Total**

Year Ending

31-Mar-08  
31-Mar-09  
31-Mar-10  
31-Mar-11  
31-Mar-12  
31-Mar-13  
31-Mar-14  
31-Mar-15  
31-Mar-16  
31-Mar-17  
31-Mar-18  
31-Mar-19  
31-Mar-20

Godalming			Busbridge			Excepted Category			Non-Parishioners			Total		
Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total	Inhum-ations	Ashes	Total
11	6	17	0	0	0	1	4	5	2	0	2	14	10	24
14	10	24	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	1	16	12	28
16	10	26	0	0	0	4	5	9	5	2	7	25	17	42
15	7	22	0	0	0	9	5	14	3	0	3	27	12	39
10	4	14	2	0	2	2	5	7	8	3	11	22	12	34
16	6	22	0	0	0	4	1	5	6	0	7	27	7	34
10	10	20	0	0	0	5	2	7	5	1	6	20	13	33
19	11	30	0	0	0	3	1	4	7	4	11	29	16	45
16	6	22	0	0	0	4	0	4	7	7	14	27	13	40
19	5	24	0	0	0	8	3	11	3	5	8	30	13	43
9	0	9	0	0	0	4	2	6	7	6	13	20	8	28
19	10	29	0	0	0	5	5	10	4	2	6	28	17	45
6	3	9	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	2	8	6	14

**PLOTS SOLD**

Quarter Ending

2012/13  
2013/14  
2014/15  
2015/16  
2016/17  
2017/18  
30-Jun-18  
30-Sep-18  
31-Dec-18  
31-Mar-19  
30-Jun-19  
30-Sep-19  
31-Dec-19  
31-Mar-20

Eash	Natural	N'gale	Total	Year End Total
14	5	12	31	31
12	1	15	28	28
14	1	19	34	34
15	1	5	21	34
13	9	2	24	24
11	8	6	25	25
8	0	0	8	
8	1	2	11	
5	0	0	5	
3	0	2	5	29
2	2	3	7	
0	0	1	1	
			0	
			0	8

## GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Disclosure by a Member<sup>1</sup> of a disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at a meeting (S.31 (4) Localism Act 2011 and the Codes of Conduct adopted by Godalming Town Council & Busbridge Parish Council).

As required by the Localism Act 2011 and the adopted Codes of Conduct, **I HEREBY DISCLOSE**, for the information of the authority that I have [a disclosable pecuniary interest]<sup>2</sup> [a non-pecuniary interest]<sup>3</sup> in the following matter:-

**COMMITTEE:**

**DATE:**

**NAME OF COUNCILLOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the form below to state in which agenda items you have an interest.

Agenda No.	Subject	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Non-Pecuniary Interest	Reason

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> "Member" includes co-opted member, member of a committee, joint committee or sub-committee

<sup>2</sup> A disclosable pecuniary interest is defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) regulations 2012/1464 and relate to employment, office, trade, profession or vocation, sponsorship, contracts, beneficial interests in land, licences to occupy land, corporate tenancies and securities

<sup>3</sup> A non-pecuniary interest is defined by Section 5 (4) of the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.