

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	26 July 2016
Title:	Priest End Allotments to Burial Space
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide a written update on the plans to convert Priest End Allotments to Burial Space and agree the heads of terms of formal transfer of the land to the Church.

Update

2. On 17 June 2016, conditional Planning Permission was granted to “Change the land use of the existing disused allotments to burial space to extend the existing graveyard at St Mary's church. (As clarified by additional information submitted on 18 January 2016 in respect of archaeology, provision of allotments and comments from the Environment Agency).”
3. At the last Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting it was reported that “If the land is to be used as burial space, it is assumed that at some point the land will need to be transferred to the church and a separate project then implemented by the church to turn the space into burial space, possibly partially funded by forward spending of s106 monies allocated for the provision of future burial space. An initial meeting has been set for 28 April 2016 to start establishing the tasks required.”
4. That meeting was held and a set of tasks was brainstormed, but is still to be written up, given other competing priorities.
5. It remains in the town's and the Town Council's interest that maximum use of available burial space at St Mary's Churchyard is achieved.
6. The most important action is the transfer of freehold of the land (and its ongoing maintenance) to the church. Officers propose that the land should be transferred at nil consideration, but subject to:
 - normal land disposal process by the Town Council in line with statutory requirements
 - a condition that the burial space is only to be used in line with the granted Planning Permission
 - a condition that the burial space is available for burials for those of any faith or none
 - a condition that the one remaining allotment tenant can enjoy continued use in her lifetime
 - the church leading on the project to execute the conversion to burial space
 with the Town Council covering reasonable costs and providing reasonable support to the project.

Legal Powers: LGA 1972 s127 and Localism Act 2011, ss1-8

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to recommend to Full Council that the land known as Priest End Allotments be transferred to the church to extend the existing graveyard at St Mary's church subject to relevant conditions and costs to be negotiated by the Town Clerk.