



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Item 12 – Town Council 17th Feb
2020

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
TEL NO	01706 548135
EMAIL	townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.
Date	17th February 2021
SUBJECT	Cross Stone (St Paul) Cemetery

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise Members that Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Marys Church Todmorden intends to approach the Ministry of Justice with the intention to close the churchyard for new burials - see Appendix 1.
2. To advise Members that at this stage, the PCC are seeking as part of their consultation process, our view as to whether we have any objections to closure of the burial grounds on the basis that we are advised it is full.
3. To advise Members that in accordance with Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972, the PCC may, once such approval is gained, serve written notice on the Parish Council requesting it to take over maintenance, with such maintenance including not only the immediate area and gravestones / monuments, but also any trees walls or fences.
4. To advise Members that given the financial impact of assuming such a responsibility, should the Town Council not wish to assume this responsibility, it must within three months of receipt of such written notice, inform the Borough Council and the PCC that the future maintenance responsibility will lie with Calderdale MBC.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There is no provision made for assuming the maintenance responsibility of a closed churchyard.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That Todmorden Town Council confirm that it has no objection to the closure of the burial ground.
7. That Todmorden Town Council Resolves that should it receive written notice of the intention to close the cemetery at St Marys to new burials and responsibility for maintenance to be

passed to the Town Council, it gives notice to the PCC and Calderdale MBC of its intention to pass on the responsibility to Calderdale MBC.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

8. The maintenance of cemeteries is not a core service of the Town Council.
9. The Town Council has no budget provision for such matters and is concerned that this could add considerable financial burden.
10. The Town Council is required to formally give notice within three months of receipt of such a notice otherwise by default responsibility is assumed.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

11. None arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

12. None arising from this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

13. None arising from this report.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

14. None arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

15. Appendix 1 - Notice letter from PCC of St Marys Church Todmorden

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill