

## **Cemetery Extension Report 17<sup>th</sup> April Parish Council AGM**

As you may be aware the current cemetery is almost full so in 2016/2017 the then parish councillors purchased the land between the Memorial Hall car park and St Giles church, land known as the 'Drang' with a view to extend the cemetery.

Planning permission for change of use to a cemetery was sought and granted in 2017, we are fortunate that we have not had to use the cemetery extension to date, however as we have not buried anyone at this site in the last 3 years the planning has expired, and new planning is now required.

Tom Kemp from Chrysalis Landscaping has designed plan which shows the potential number of burial and cremation plots the land could accommodate. Although the land is not consecrated it has been agreed that the burials will follow the traditional siting of graves facing East to West in relation to the church.

The land has 2 sewers running through it one alongside the memorial hall wall the second across to the church, because of this we have been firmly instructed by the senior delivery engineer at Wessex Water that no burials plots can be dug approx 5m from the leigh end of the land and 5m from the memorial side of the land as this is required for any maintenance that may be needed in the future.

We are happy to consider planting these voids areas with shrubs and hopefully place a couple of benches in the cemetery for quiet reflection, we have agreement from the memorial committee that memorial plaques can be attached to the memorial wall if this is what people would like to do.

The next steps are to have a tier 1 risk assessment completed for ground water and water sources and new planning permission for change of use sought.

**This week it is hoped that the graves which suffered from the heavy rainfalls recently will be backfilled with topsoil and grass seeds.**

**Estelle Kirby**