

Cemetery

Tue 13/07/2021

Dear Clerk to the Council,

I'm writing to you with my concerns about the accessibility of the graves at the rear of the cemetery, where my parents in law ([REDACTED]) are buried. I have very great concerns about trying to get to their graves to tend them. I am myself disabled, using a crutch; therefore when I visit - every 3 to 4 weeks - I have to manage with my crutch in one hand, and flowers, water etc in my other hand. There is NO safe path up to them, if I use the main path i have to pick my way carefully over the very rough ground, and then walk over three or four graves to get to them. The path on the other side of the cemetery is very uneven, with again me faced with the choice of staggering over the graves of other people, or walking yards out of my way. If I walk straight from the water tank it's a straight choice of extremely uneven ground over all of the graves in what used to be the path. I have come a cropper before now, losing flowers and water. Whilst I understand that space is at a premium, I feel very uncomfortable that I'm trampling over the resting place of a lot of people, which, for me, is disrespectful. I'm unable to visit at all once the ground becomes waterlogged in the winter.

That isn't my main concern, however; over the last few years there has been an extremely invasive creeping weed which has been taking over all of the cemetery, but this year at that part of the grave where my in laws are there is also now a huge crop of field thistles, approaching two feet tall. We managed to get rid of the six thistles that were on my mother in law's grave, but how long before it has to be done again? It's no easy task to carry all the gardening equipment we needed to take, I hardly need say. This is not a case of conservation but is approaching neglect. On your website page you promise a resting place of peace, but it is nothing less than a battle for me - against the uneven ground, invasive weeds and rabbits - which eat the flowers as fast as you can put them there. I contrast that with members of my own family who are interred at Redenhall cemetery, which though an uphill walk, is nevertheless marked out with clear paths and several seats on which to rest. I'd be interested to know the opinions of your councillors on this matter - but I'd like to reiterate its not just the neglected aspect of the cemetery, but also the safety of all of those who wish to visit family members who've been laid to rest at the rear of the plot that concerns me.

Cemetery Laxfield Road

17th July 2021

Hello. I went to the cemetery on Laxfield Road today to take flowers for my son, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I have to say I was absolutely appalled at the scene that met my eyes when I arrived. The whole area was covered in weeds. I known in the past these have been referred to as wild flowers, but today they were WEEDS. There were thistles some 3' high in places and I actually got my foot caught on a bramble that was growing between my son's grave and the neighbouring one. When I lived in Stradbroke there was a permanent debate about maintaining the cemetery but over the past few years I have been pleasantly surprised when I have visited as the situation seemed to be under control. However, today I

actually felt guilty about leaving his remains there, albeit they have been there for [REDACTED] [REDACTED], because of the state of the place. I find this a totally unacceptable way to leave a churchyard. It should be a place where people can go to remember their loved ones, and not leave feeling guilty about the area. I am extremely disappointed that the cemetery has been left in what can only be described as a neglected condition and I shall be making enquiries about moving the grave to a better attended place of remembrance. I look forward to hearing your reply, and please don't tell me that it's a haven for nature! If one area was left to go wild that's one thing but to allow the whole cemetery to be left is disrespectful to those living and to those who have passed on.

Stradbroke Cemetery

20th July 2021

Hi Odile

My dad started to do some of the cutting work at the cemetery, when I came to see how he was getting on, he mentioned that some people had commented that it was a shame to cut down all the wild flowers and how pretty it looked, one man in particular had some strong views on it and said he was going to complain to the Parish Council. After looking myself, I think they were quite right to say so and that it did look beautiful and it was full of butterflies and bees. Therefore we have done some cutting and strimming around some of the newer graves, but I think you should possibly have a look yourself and decide whether we should cut it all. This year, because of the wet and warm weather, it is looking particularly nice later on in the year and would be a real pity to cut it down, particularly from a wildlife point of view.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Matthew Hammond

Sent: 14 July 2021 11:29

To: Stradbroke Parish Council

Subject: Hedges and ditches

Once again local farmers are cutting hedges down and back severely, also dredging of a stream has been undertaken, both of which are irregardless of wildlife. It was started a few days ago, and is still going on today.

Surely as the parish council is setting up and encouraging an appreciation and our care of wildlife, something must be done to stop this.

Depending on your response, I shall be writing to Chris Packham, advising that here in Stradbroke our farmers have absolutely no interest in conservation or preservation of this habitat.

I await your urgent response.

Thank you.

On 14 Jul 2021, at 11:34, Stradbroke Parish Council wrote:

I acknowledge receipt of your email.

Correspondence is dealt with at parish council meetings and I will add your email to the list of correspondence for the next meeting.

In the meantime, if you think an offence has been committed, my suggestion would be that you contact the police on 101 or seek advice from the RSPB (link below).

Re: Hedges and ditches

Wed 14/07/2021 11:51

I will contact RSPB

Thank you

Via PC website:

20th July 2021

There is an issue with the position of the 30MPH sign as you enter the village on the B1118 from the North (Hoxne). it is too close to the village and needs to be relocated at least 1km north. This sign is not situated as the other 30MPH signs on approaches to the village - the result is that drivers only decelerate at the sign going south making them speed well into the village. Going North, vehicles and motorcycles, accelerate at the sign and the resulting noise is something to behold. If these signs were moved 1km outside of the village (like the others on the Laxfield road) many residents on the B1118, Queens Street and Ash Plough would be grateful. resolving this will address many issues with trying to enjoy a village life

Climate Emergency ?

Tue 20/07/2021 19:21

I would like to see Stradbroke PC enforce the agreed Stradbroke development plan rather than let large property developers squeeze more houses onto sites outlined for less approved dwellings as specified in the development plan.

All these houses will have oil boilers and you (Stradbroke PC) are by default NOT helping to reduce the climate emergency. Stradbroke is not a lion, we do not have to roar, we just have to stick with what the Approved Parish Council development plan that the good residents of Stradbroke put together in order to have a say on their future; but Stradbroke PC seem to ignore it and their residents wishes and then declare a climate emergency!?! Come on...Smell the coffee.