Cemetery mowing regime for 2024

Following the concerns expressed by family and friends of those buried in the cemetery about the mowing regime last year, the Parish Council has altered the regime for 2024.

The cemetery is a place of burial and remembrance, and the Parish Council respects those who are buried here and the wishes of their families and friends. With continued feedback from visitors to the cemetery, and the Wildlife Trust, we aim to arrive at a mowing regime which best balances the role of the cemetery as a place of remembrance, with the maintenance of a unique wildlife asset to the village.



For 2024, all areas of the cemetery will be mown during March and early April, when the weather conditions allow. From mid-April, the cemetery on the left-hand side will continue to be mown on a regular basis, along with areas on the right-hand side. From mid-April to mid-July, there will be no mowing in a restricted area of the right-hand side of the cemetery. This area will include older, untended graves, with paths cut for access and around actively tended graves. The aim will be to allow the plants growing in this area time to flower and set seed before being mown, after mid-July. From mid-July onwards the whole cemetery will again be mown.

In addition, the Parish Council, with voluntary assistance, will clear the gravel path of weeds, to restore and improve this aspect of the cemetery.



The mowing regime proposed aims to prevent further loss of diversity in this important wildlife site, which has been given County Wildlife Site (CWS) status by the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust. There are around 470 such sites in Cambridgeshire; the cemetery being one of only two in Broughton, and by far the more important. The site, which has been a cemetery since c.1900, is neutral grassland, holding in excess of 25 species including Cowslips, Pyramidal Orchids, Bee Orchids, Yarrow, Hairy Violets, Salad Burnet and Ox-eye Daisies. The diversity within the site is unique in Broughton, and rare in the county.



The Wildlife Trust has offered to come and talk to the village about the site, its biodiversity and management. Notice of this talk will be advertised on the Parish Council noticeboard (opposite The Crown), the Parish Council website (www.broughtoncambspc.org.uk) and Angie Upshall's village email distribution list once the date has been agreed.

If anyone has any concerns or comments about the mowing regime for 2024, or anything else relating to the cemetery, please send your comments to the Parish Council either via the Chairman (Michael O'Donovan michael@broughtoncambspc.org.uk) or the Parish Clerk (Ann Nixon clerk@broughtoncambspc.org.uk).