

Public Meeting 13 March 2025

Questions and Answers

- 1. I really think we need to understand why this is the case. Is this the case that it's easier to have it seeded, so it's easier for the council, to mow it?**

Maintaining the cemetery's appearance requires significant effort, and the lawn cemetery approach ensures uniformity, respect, and efficient upkeep.

- 2. Were you aware of that letter that was sent Tuesday?**

The email sent on Tuesday was followed up with a phone call to the family and our understanding was that they acknowledged the reason for the email and were satisfied.

- 3. My question is, is it something all the councils do all over the country? Or does it just seem to be like it's South Northants?**

There are many lawn cemeteries in the UK, not just South Northants.

- 4. How does it feel that the people of your town who you represent are being sent these letters and being made to do these things like removing sentimental items off of graves?**

Guidance was sought from other parish and town councils and given the sensitivity of the subject; the advice was to maintain a business-like approach. This will now be reconsidered.

- 5. Can I just ask, if we disagree with your findings, which of course people may well do. What happens then? What happens to the four thousand people, of course there has to be a compromise, but what if the public disagree with the councillors' decision?**

If the public disagrees with the council's decision, their feedback will still be acknowledged and considered. The review process aims to find a balanced approach that respects both individual wishes and the overall integrity of the cemetery. If concerns remain, residents can continue to engage through further discussions with the town council. The council is committed to listening and ensuring that any final decisions reflect the needs of the community while maintaining the dignity of the cemetery

- 6. We all had to read out who we are, but none of you did. We don't know any of you. Why have we had to do it and not you?**

In retrospect, this was an error, and we will take steps to prevent it from happening in future public meetings

7. We have asked all these questions – do you have nothing to say?

Out of respect for the residents at the meeting, councillors were asked to listen rather than speak. However, we should have provided them with an opportunity to speak at the end.

8. You're saying you're going to review this, is there a timeline?

At a recent full council meeting, it was decided that the task and finish group will carry out a detailed review and present a report at the July full council meeting. An in-depth timeline will be established during the group's first meeting to guide the process leading up to July.