

Friends of Darwen Cemetery Public Meeting

27th June 2012

John East – Chairman – welcomed Cllrs Karimeh and David Foster, Brent Stevenson, Barbara Cox, Neil Oxley(BwD) David Rigby(BwD) and Billy Briggs (Darwen Cemetery with a vast amount of knowledge). Also present – Rosemary Jackson, Paul Dargan, Len Jackson, Helen Thomas, Ann Stokes, Maureen Roberts, Mavis Smith, Roy Cox, David Shorrocks, Tony Foster, Anne Lamont, Teresa Watson, Diane Walsh, Sue Riding, Jill Marr and Diane Davies

Apologies – Adam Turner, Mick & Kath Walsh, Cllr Denise Gee, Cllr Dave Smith, Cllr Brian Taylor, Cllr Eileen Entwistle, Cllr Chris Thayne, Cllr Roy Davies and Jake Berry MP

- 1) Last meeting's minutes – approved
- 2) Matters arising -we have achieved a lot since the last meeting in Nov 2011, including the trip to the Bradford Cemetery which is a grade 2 listed site. Tony F possibly to talk about the visit at a later meeting. One useful tip which we learnt was about weed killing and staff training.
- 3) Finance – Diane W summarized financial situation (Account summary available on the website).
- 4) Projects Update –
 - Steve Lomas from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is impressed and has started an online platform which FODC could link to. Roy Cox has photographed all the war graves which have been forwarded to the CWGC to be put on their website. They were very impressed with the quality of the photographs, and will eventually be given GPS locations
 - Crown Paints Bid – a suggestion for this from Tony F of the brown tourist information signs to be erected to give directions to the Cemetery.
 - Jill Marr updated the meeting on three main projects where we are applying for funding (see attached report)
- 5) Any other Business
 - FODC Events – Working parties, Darwen Gala (18th August), Jubilee Strawberry Tea, Heritage weekend (September 8th and 9th)
 - School parties – we are starting a full educational programme with 10 volunteers to be arranged for September 2012. Helen Thomas is to be our School's Co-ordinator.

- Volunteering requests. We have had requests from local young people's groups to carry out volunteering including two volunteer days for Year 7 & 8 from DACA, who will be clearing paths etc.
- The Payback team have continued to carry out work in the cemetery.
- Any damage from the recent heavy rain & floods – Len Jackson – just a bit of damage to a tree and path – most damage in the Park.
- The tree which came down with the weather was quickly chopped up and removed by BwD and the pillar re-erected and the site made safe.
- We have had a visit from the Friends of Blackburn Cemetery who are just starting up and were very impressed by the work we have completed.

6) Members made a site visit to the cemetery to see areas where future projects will hopefully be carried out if we are successful with our funding bids..

Next Public Meeting – Wednesday September 26th at 7.00pm. Venue to be announced.