

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE: 4 NOVEMBER 2025

AGENDA ITEM 14: MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT

i) St Petroc's Churchyard

1. Large Memorial (Richards) - Update

1.1 Committee will recall it agreed to ascertain the cost of fully repairing the large C1 memorial for comparison with the quotation of £900 already received (Drew Memorials) for making the memorial safe and removing the failing top section.

1.2 Officers contacted C F Piper and Son as recommended by local stonemasons, Drew Memorials to seek costs for repair. The quotes received are ex VAT and are inclusive of labour, materials and transport. They are available to undertake the works in November. Where scaffolding is required, a deposit of £680 is required in advance.

1.3 Option 1 – Make Safe, Partial Restoration - £2,060

- To take down top part of memorial
- Cut out defect Stone and splice in new Stone.
- Re-erect back into position and point joints. Make and supply new Ball finial and fit.
- Scaffolding

1.4 Option 2 – Full Restoration - £5,000

For works detailed in option 1 plus

- Clean memorial and dig out loose mortar joints.
- Drill out metal cramps
- Re-align curb stones and Level, replace with new stainless steel cramps.
- Point open joints and paint letters,
- clean up on completion.

1.5 Option 3 – Make Safe - £820

- To take down and take top part away, cap off with a piece of 25mm slate with pencil nose edges to stop water penetration going into the top of the memorial.

2. Budget

2.1 There is £3,820 remaining in the Stability Testing cost centre within the cemetery budget. Committee should be mindful, however, that it is planning to develop a memorial management plan for the Churchyard this winter which may lead to further safety repair works/costs. Furthermore, there are 7 C1 memorials in Padstow Cemetery (consideration of in separate report) which could cost in the region of £1,575 to make safe.

2.2 The RFO therefore recommends, for options 1 or 3, using the Equipment, Materials and Repairs cost centre which has an available

budget of £7,000. For option 2, Committee would need to use the LTOS projects/contingency as this figure would not be considered routine expenditure.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 Richards Memorial: Councillor Eddy has provided information regarding the persons memorialised. The late Martyn Richards being described as a "Gentleman" of the Parish of Padstow, he and his wife Dorathea Maria Richards residing in Treator with connections to family names, Prideaux, Coombs, and Hellyar.
- 3.2 Community Benefit: As members will know, any spending must be commensurate with the benefit to the community. The Town Clerk and RFO consider that the cost of a full restoration (option 2) is unlikely to meet this requirement. Committee would need to have very clear rationale for undertaking this level of repair. However, there could be some merit to the suggestion that given the age of the memorial (late 1800s) and its visual impact, it is a key feature of the Churchyard's landscape and a visible link to the community's historic past that may warrant a partial restoration (option 1).
- 3.3 Likelihood Of Similar Occurrences: Any action must be sustainable in the event of similar occurrences in the Churchyard. Officers and the Committee Chair undertook a site visit to ascertain the likelihood of further works at this level of expense. There were no further memorials that raised concern. Whilst there are other memorials of a large size, or that have complex structures, or are in high traffic areas, the Richards memorial appears to be unique in having all three characteristics. Therefore, the likelihood of further safety repairs at this cost are not anticipated. However, as mentioned, a full memorial safety inspection is still to be undertaken. It also worth mentioning that the large memorial (Richards) is located close to one of the churchyard footpaths which, due to its proximity, has been closed and would remain closed until action is taken to make this area safe.
- 3.4 Faculty: Officers are still progressing Faculty before any works can be undertaken.

4. Decision

- 4.1 Having obtained the additional information requested, how does Committee wish to proceed? Committee to be clear on the rationale for its choice and to agree the relevant budget as per the RFO's recommendation in 2.2.
- 4.2 Given the size and complexity of the memorial structure, is Committee satisfied to engage C F Piper and Son to undertake the works as specialist contractors subject to receiving satisfactory PLI and RA information and to delegate the taking forward of these works to the Town Clerk, including start dates, timescales, and matters arising from faculty permission.

ii) Padstow Cemetery

1. Update - Memorial Stability Testing 2025

- 1.1 The list of C1 and C2 memorials have now been published on the Council's website. Of the 8 C1 memorials identified, contact details could be found for 1 and this memorial has now been made safe by the family.
- 1.2 There remains 7 C1 memorials for which we have no contact details/ details are over 30 years old and no members of the public have contacted the office in response to the stake/band measure or the safety notice on the grave. The age of the memorials ranges from 1889 to 1943.

2. Making Safe – Long Term

- 2.1 Consideration of a longer-term safety solution is required. As per Council's policy the following must be considered for each memorial, appendix 1 provides photographs of each memorial for context:

a)	Is the memorial dilapidated by long neglect or is there evidence that the grave is visited;
	All in good condition visually, no signs of dilapidation. No evidence of visiting.
b)	By leaving the memorial laid flat would it impede the maintenance of the cemetery to such a degree so as to have a negative effect on the overall aesthetics of the cemetery, OR would the location of the memorial in its laid flat position create a trip hazard significant enough to warrant an alternative long term solution;
	Would not impede maintenance significantly but would likely have some impact as are memorials without kerbing. Some impact on aesthetics, all midway down on the East side where there is much open lawn and no memorials laid flat in vicinity. Not high traffic areas, unlikely to be significant trip hazard.
c)	Is the memorial for someone of historical, cultural or local importance thereby making any funding of a repair in the public interest; and
	N/A.
d)	Is the location or material of the memorial contributing to the deterioration of the memorial in any way.
	N/A

- 2.2 Drew Memorials have been contacted for advice regarding options and costs. They have suggested sinking the bases into the ground and concreting these in. They confirm this is an accepted practice as per the BRAMM Blue Book (industry code of practice). The cost of this is estimated at £225 plus VAT per memorial. Alternatively, to lay them flat would be £80 plus VAT.

- 2.3 There is sufficient budget remaining in the stability testing cost centre in the cemetery budget for either of the options in 2.2 above.

3. Decisions

- 3.1 Committee is asked to decide upon longer term safety solutions for the 7 remaining 2025 C1 memorials. Does Committee wish to:
- a) Appoint Drew Memorials to either i) sink and concrete the bases, or ii) lay flat the memorials, OR
 - b) Delegate the decision of a) to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Committee Chair following a site meeting to look at each memorial in context; OR
 - c) Leave the memorials with their temporary safety measures until 1 year has passed to allow more time for possible relatives to become aware of the issue and contact the office. Continuing to monitor the safety measures in the meantime.
- 3.2 If Committee decides upon c) above, does it wish to agree now the action to be taken after one year, if no contact is established by the family?

C1 Memorials – Stability Testing 2025

