PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE: 7 JULY 2026

AGENDA ITEM 11 i): STABILITY TESTING

1. Update 2025

1.1 All the C1 cemetery repairs agreed by Committee are now complete and have been downgraded to C3s, inspect in 5 years.

2. Overview 2026

2.1 The 2026 cemetery stability testing has been completed. Five C1s were identified; these have all been made safe either by lying flat or applying a stake and band. The Council now having its own machine for applying the stake and band has sped up this process. Overall the process is becoming faster and more efficient each year as the SAMM system beds in.

3. C1 considerations

3.1 For the five C1s identified, there is either no Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB), or the EROB owner is untraceable (as defined by the Council's policy). Photographs and details of the memorials, including their location and testing history can be found in appendix 1.

3.2 As detailed in the appendix, the two children's crosses (I3 and A14) have been laid flat but are at risk of being in a continual back and forth of risk. They are being stood up likely by well meaning persons, or possibly relatives, and laid flat again by the team. No contact has been made with the office in response to any of the previous safety notices placed on these graves. To negate this, Committee's view on instructing a stonemason to refit these crosses to BS8415 is welcomed.

3.3 The large cross on F87 has been laid flat as it was too large to apply a stake and band.

3.4 Consideration needs to be given to the longer-term future of H63 and J66 if a response to the safety notices on the graves is not forthcoming. I.e to lay these flat or repair them. H63 is a heavy cross at quite an angle, it may be prudent to seek advice from a stonemason as to which option would be the easiest and most cost effective which could well be to refit to BS8415. J66 is a traditional headstone and would be a relatively simple repair which Council has undertaken on other headstones in this area.

4. C2 memorial considerations

4.1 For the following memorials, there is either no Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB), or the EROB owner is untraceable (as defined by the Council's policy). Appendix 2 provides photographs and further details.

4.2 N74 was identified as a C1 in 2024 and a stake and band applied, this remains in place. The longer-term future of this headstone was not considered by Committee at that time as, through conversations with a

stonemason, it was thought a relative was looking into arranging repairs. This transpired to be related to another memorial and therefore N74 now needs consideration. Committee should note that other graves in this area were repaired by Committee due to the aesthetics of this area. Furthermore, the headstone is attached to the kerb surrounding and so lying flat the memorial could be a larger job than a repair. However, the Assistant Town Clerk can seek the stonemason's advice in this regard if Committee so wishes.

4.3 H36 has been identified as a C2. The headstone is large and attached to the kerb and it is the kerb that is failing. As this deteriorates it will fall onto the grave space behind. Whilst the Assistant Town Clerk considers this is not an immediate risk, Committee may wish to consider the benefit of instructing a stonemason to refit this kerb at this stage if, after consultation with the Stonemason, it is relatively simple. If allowed to fall backwards, this would impede strimming/mowing of this area.

4.4 The memorial on H30 was broken many years ago by an accident with a car in the cemetery. The headstone is broken and pointed. The Assistant Town Clerk spoke with a stonemason regarding the possibility of lying this memorial flat, however advice was that given how the headstone is fixed to the kerbing this would be quite a large and destructive job. Their suggestion, if Committee wishes to reduce the point, would be to cut the headstone to make it level. The Assistant Town Clerk and Council Facilities Officer have discussed the headstone, both consider the risk from this memorial is low given its location. Furthermore, that it is no greater risk than the points on the metal railings of other graves. Committees' views on this are sought.

5. Budget

5.1 Previous costs for repairs have been in the region of £225 per memorial and there is sufficient budget available in the stability testing cost centre to undertake repairs to all 8 of the memorials if Committee so wishes.

6. Decisions

6.1 Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to instruct a stonemason to refit the crosses on I3 and A14 to BS8415 and, if so, it be agreed this can be actioned now?

6.2 In agreeing any action in relation to F87, H53 and J66 is Committee satisfied that the action be undertaken following a period of at least 4 months to allow any relatives of the deceased time to respond to the safety notices?

Thereafter, does Committee wish to:

i) Leave flat the cross on F87 given its weight and the number of memorials laid flat in this area, or have it repaired;
ii) Seek the stonemason's advice as to the most appropriate action to take in respect of H53 being either to repair it to BS8415 or lay it flat;

iii) Repair J66 to BS8415 or lay it flat?

6.3 In relation to the C2 memorials above does Committee wish to:

i) Repair N74 to BS8415 or lay it flat;
ii) Repair H36 to BS8415 or continue to monitor it;
iii) Is Committee satisfied to accept the low risk posed by H30 or does it wish to instruct the stonemason to either level the headstone or lay it flat?

6.4 Costs to be taken from the stability testing cost centre, however does Committee wish to set a maximum budget for the actions it has agreed?

APPENDIX 1

C1 Findings

I3 Maud Eveline Lockwood d.1918 and **Walter Herbert Lockwood d. 1920**

Location: Children's Original West in front of Gordon Dawe Shelter. No others laid flat in this area.

Safety measure: Laid flat with safety notice.

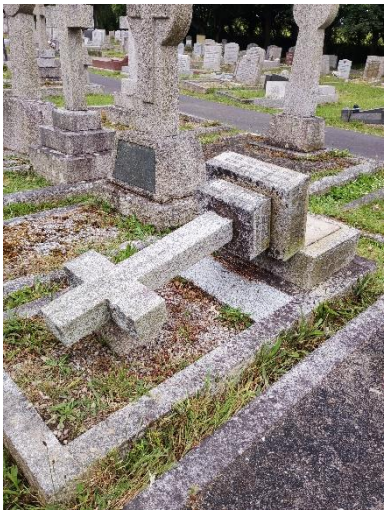
Testing history: Laid flat in 2025, stood up by unknown persons but not refitted. Could continue to be stood up and laid flat. Safety issue when stood up. No other evidence of visiting.

A14 Ameila Betty Williams d.1925 and **William Thomas Williams d.1947** and **Florence May Williams d.1975**

Location: Original East, midway down, against hedge. Childs cross. Other larger crosses laid flat in vicinity.

Safety measure: Laid flat with safety notice.

Testing history: 2024, C1, laid flat. 2025 crude repair found, C2. 2026 crude repair failed, C1, laid flat. Could continue to be stood up and laid flat. Safety issue when stood up. No other evidence of visiting.



F87 Henry Wallis Brewer d.1950 and **Hugh Lester Brewer d.1954**

Location: Original East, very bottom of cemetery by turning circle. Other crosses and headstones laid flat in vacinity.

Safety meaure: Laid flat with safety notice. Not easily stood up.

Testing history: Previous C2.

H53 Florence Lloyd d.1921 and **Walter Cadwallader Lloyd d.1924**

Location: Original East, towards bottom of cemetery. Not many laid down in this area.

Safety measure: Stake and band appliced with safety notice.

Testing history: No previous movement recorded just angle. So has deteriorated quickly.

J66 Alfred James Davey d.1962 and **Mary Jane Davey d.1980**

Location: Original East, towards bottom of cemetery. Not many laid down in this area.

Safety measure: Stake and band appliced with safety notice.

Testing history: C2 with movement.

APPENDIX 2

C2s For Consideration

N74 Ernest John Bennett d.1968

Location: Original West, towards bottom of cemetery. Not many laid down in this area.

Safety measure: Stake and band applied with safety notice.

Testing history: Stake and band applied since 2024.

H36 John Sweet d.1895 and **Elizabeth Sweet d.1897**

Location: Original West, midway down. Not many laid down in this area.

Safety measure: C2, monitor.

Mary Brooks d.1895 and **Richard Brooks d.1896**

Location: Original West, midway down. Not many laid down in this area.

Safety measure: C2, monitor.