The Friends of Darwen Cemetery



Minutes for the Trustees Meeting on 30 April 2025

Issued 13 June 2025

**Present:** Tony Foster (Chair), Jill Marr (minutes), Graham Ardis, Diane Walsh, Melissa Dabrowski, Jim Taylor, John East, Jenny O’Neill

1. **Apologies:** Mick Walsh, Trish Dabrowski, Paul Dargan
2. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** accepted.
3. **Matters arising.**
   1. **Potholes –** The issue is now with BwD Council
   2. **Memorial for Stillborn/Unmarked graves –** The wording has been agreed. Tony will send it to James and order the bench.
   3. **QR code for the “lone soldier” –** Tony will send a written piece to Paul for the website. Graham will sort the QR code plaque.
   4. **WW2 Memorial -** Tony has produced the list of names although there is a query with the information on one of the casualties. There was a general discussion regarding the amount of information to include. Funding has been secured.
   5. **Replacement cabin -**. On-going. C/fwd
   6. **Bat Walk –** The event was very successful. 75 people attended and approx. £90 was raised.
4. **Chairman’s report – Tony.**   
   The MP is to visit on the 7th June. Subjects to be discussed include the work of the volunteers and the issue if it being a “closed” cemetery.

The AGM is on the 4th June. All Trustees are standing for re-election. Tony is to stand down as Chairman and Graham has expressed an intention to stand for election.

There are problems with the website. Paul to check on his return from holiday.

1. **Treasurer’s report – Diane W.**

No report this month

1. **Health and Safety – Graham**

6 volunteers have agreed to do emergency first aid training., This will be a 90 minute session provided free by a St Johns Ambulance trainer. The information has been passed back to the trainer and a response is awaited

No incidents to report.

1. **Grounds strategy report – Jill.**

There were 5 Thursdays and 3 Saturdays in April 2025. The volunteers accrued 143 hours.

Regular work Paths have been swept to help prevent a build-up of vegetation. Anne has continued to clear blocked drains.

Adhoc jobs as follows: - Unadopted war graves have been refurbished ready or adoption.

The corner opposite Prickly corner was cleared ready for the WW2 memorial.

The running total for 2025 stands at 373 hours.

1. **War graves report – Graham**There are 10 available for adoption. Mel has produced a flyer to advertise them.

Trish and Mel are investigating why the CWWG headstone was removed from the Pattinson grave, seemingly at the family’s request.

1. **Education and Interpretation report – Tony.**Nothing to report
2. **Publicity and media report – John.**The council to be asked if we can re-use the faded plaques to advertise the work of FODC.
3. **Grave maintenance scheme – Paul.**Nothing to report
4. **Any other business**

CVS have £1,000 bids available if we need anything. Consideration to be given.

Find a Grave – Graham reported that section H is now complete. Tony asked if he and/or Mel could give a talk to the Heritage Centre.

Graham was thanked for painting the planter in the main entrance.

AGM to be publicised on the fb page and website

**Date of next meeting** – AGM 4th June 7pm at the Heritage Centre