



MINUTES OF AN ASSEMBLY OF PRINCIPALS, OFFICERS AND ELECTORS

An Assembly of Principals, Officers and Electors of the Parish of St Martin was duly convened and held in the Public Hall on Thursday 25th September at 7.00pm.

The Connétable welcomed all present and reminded the Assembly that they could sign the Attendance Book at the end of the meeting if they so wished. It was noted that 19 people were in attendance.

Apologies had been received from Peter Germain, Deputy Steve Luce, Robbie Perchard and Felicity Searle.

The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

Item 1

Receive and if deemed advisable, approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 28th August 2025.

The Connétable reminded those assembled that the Minutes had been available from the Public Hall and copies were on the seats. After due consideration the Minutes were approved as follows:

- Proposer – William Sutton
- Seconder – Rev. Peter Stone

Item 2

Consider, and if deemed advisable, approve the extension of the Church Cemetery. A presentation will be made by Rev. Peter Stone to the Assembly. Plans have been on display at the Public Hall from Tuesday 19th August 2025.

The Connétable invited Rev. Peter Stone to give a presentation to the Assembly.

Rev. Peter Stone addressed the Assembly and made the following key points:

1. Following the Parish Assembly on 6th July 2023, when the field behind the Rectory was suggested as a potential option, the Reverend, Connétable, Procureurs and appointed architect had been reviewing cemeteries across the Island as well entering discussions with both the Dean and a number of local funeral directors to ascertain their views. It was now considered a feasible option and so Page Architects had been instructed to prepare some draft plans.
2. It was noted the land in question belonged to the Parish and Church and that the necessary landscaping would be minimal compared to the previous scheme. This would include planting trees and a hedge along the northern boundary to create a natural barrier as well as installing livestock fencing so that the remaining meadow could continue to be grazed. The car park would be extended and this would include a turning circle for hearses and a small mason's yard. Additional hedging would be planted along the east, west and southern boundaries to deliver privacy as necessary. Preparation of the ground would be minimal with some reseeding similar to the works recently undertaken on the Bonfire Field. Trial holes had been dug and these had confirmed that the soil was suitable and there was no known water course within the vicinity.
3. The proposed cemetery would have capacity for approximately 420 graves together with an ashes plot by the southern boundary wall. One section would be used for traditional

burials with headstones only (to ease future maintenance) whilst another section would be for “green burials” with no headstones and a naturalised landscape. Plots would be indicated on occasional wooden stakes with plaques. It was envisaged that such a cemetery would last the Parish for at least 40 years.

4. No costs were available at this stage although it was hoped that these would not be excessive. Undoubtedly funds would be required to create the extended car park, install aqua cells for drainage, as well as gates and fencing. However, as there was no immediate need the works could be phased over time and the annual contribution to the cemetery reserve fund increased to facilitate the project in a responsible manner.
5. It was noted that once planning consent had been secured the Parish would have a further Assembly to review costs and agree the programme of works. The Rector was of the view that the Parish had found a suitable place for the extended cemetery which would deliver a dignified place for loved ones to be laid to rest whilst complementing the Parish environment and keeping costs to a minimum.

The Connétable then asked for any questions from the Assembly.

Mr Rupert Langly-Smith enquired how far the extended cemetery would encroach onto the existing field. Whilst the architect, George de Sousa, did not have an exact area to hand, he advised that the car park would be double the size of the existing and the northern boundary of the proposed cemetery would follow the line of the northern boundary of the Rectory range of buildings.

Mr Peter Searle expressed concern that the car park would be doubling in size whilst the single lane access would not be enhanced or widened. It was felt that for large funerals or events the Honorary Police would be available to manage access and egress. It was acknowledged that the current access also acted as a traffic calming measure.

Mr Lester Richardson advised the Assembly that the current agricultural tenant, Mr Robbie Perchard, fully supported the proposal and felt it was a good location for a cemetery extension.

Mr Gerald Le Cocq considered that the previous scheme entailed far too much landscaping to address the drop in levels. He felt that the current proposal was far easier to deliver.

Mr Colin Renouf acknowledged that the Parish had taken the feedback on board from July 2023 and that the current scheme benefitted from an enlarged car park for Parish events. It was noted that part of the car park might be offered to St Martin’s School for teacher car parking. Mr Renouf enquired as to the capacity of the existing cemetery and how soon the new cemetery needed to be in place. Based upon current usage the Rector envisaged that the existing cemetery had provision for a further 15 years although “green funerals” might take place sooner. Questions were raised as to whether the Churchyard cemetery had any capacity. The Rector responded that regrettably the records were vague on this issue but he considered there were a considerable amount of unmarked graves within the Churchyard. He therefore considered that there was unlikely to be a lot of space remaining.

Mrs Myfanwy Agnes enquired whether there would be space for a memorial garden for babies. It was noted that there was already a small memorial garden in place to the west of the current cemetery.

With no further questions and comments, the Connétable reminded the Assembly that only Parishioners or Rate Payers were eligible to vote. A vote was taken with 16 in favour and none against.

Item 3

If the Church Cemetery extension is agreed then approve the submission of a Planning Application to the Environment & Planning Department.

A vote was taken with 16 in favour and none against.

The Connétable thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25pm

Karen Stone

Karen Shenton Stone
Connétable

Date *18 December 2025*

