

Burial Ground Management: item b) Picnic

1. Peter Rawcliffe has written to the Council:

“In July 2014 we held a parish family picnic in the burial ground meadow, with a wildflower hunt for the children. It was a success (the day was sunny!), the children enjoyed running around and searching out the flowers to match the photos on the sheet I'd prepared.

Maggie and I (with one or two other people to help) would like to arrange the same again this year and there are plenty of suitably aged children in the village. Please would you be able to see whether the Council would be agreeable in general principle, and what further steps would be necessary? I'm thinking mainly of risk assessment and public liability insurance cover. Would the latter be covered by Council's insurance provided a risk assessment had been completed satisfactorily and acted on? Would that be ok?

If the Council is happy in general principle then I'll ask Father Ben if he's happy with the idea and make sure there'd be no clash with a Church event.”

2. The Council's records show:

- It approved such an event at its July 2014 meeting, which can be viewed on the website here:
https://shinksey.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/shpc-minutes-07_07_14-1.pdf
- The event appears to have taken place on Saturday 12th July 2014 and was advertised via Shinfo
- It seems no complaints were received about the event before or after it took place.

3. I consulted Laura Harlock, who is responsible for Oxford City Council's cemeteries, and she advised: “Cemeteries are a green open space and if the picnic is away from the graves, for example in the long grass section, then I don't see why there should be a problem.”

4. The Council's insurance would cover the event provided an appropriate risk assessment were produced for the Council's approval.

Geoffrey Ferres
Parish Clerk
Monday 13th May 2019