**Repairs to Boundary Wall – Donisthorpe Cemetery**

Further to the update at the last meeting the schedule of works was reissued and again no responses were received.

The problem appears to be that most trades have work scheduled well into 2023 and as this contract is relatively open ended the interest is not there. The solution could be to approach bigger companies that have greater capacity but that would inevitably result in a significantly higher price and take the work away from local trades.

The clerk spoke with Phil Statham Builders, who has previously carried out work in the cemetery, and he agreed to meet the clerk on site to discuss the content of the surveyor’s report.

The one area of most concern was the surveyor’s view that the section of wall to the right of the lych gate should be deconstructed and rebuilt using savaged bricks and an expansion joint be created to maintain stability and movement of the wall.

On inspection it was noted that there were no visible cracks and no specific evidence of movement. An expansion joint had already been built into the section in question and the ‘felt material’ in between was visible. There was evidence of displacement in the joint but only around 5mm. Bearing in mind the age of the wall this finding would not be unreasonable.

The remainder of the wall was inspected and around 6 cracks of varying severity were identified. These all corresponded to the location of trees along the boundary. Clearly the cracks were as a result of root growth from the trees.

The view was that these cracks did not affect the overall structural stability of the wall as they did not appear to extend into the foundations. It was considered that each of these cracks could be repaired and an assessment be made at each point as to whether or not the damage was more extensive and would need further work.

It was noted that when the original wall was built a small section of wrought iron fencing had been installed at the point where a large tree existed. It was suggested that if any section of the wall was found to be damaged to the extent it could not be rebuilt, or there would be significant costs associated with a rebuild then the use of similar fencing was feasible. The only other option would be the removal of trees.

On this basis Phil Statham would be able to carry out the work and use spare days in between existing contracts to address each section in turn.

An estimate of time needed is 5 days and the rate would be £400 per day plus materials.

**Surveyors Report**

The surveyor’s inspection was limited to the wall structure and was carried out by visual sighting. None of the structure or foundations were deconstructed to facilitate the inspection so the findings are based on the surveyor’s professional opinion. The matter could be referred for further inspection to a structural engineer, however the views of the builder may be considered together with potential increased costs. Any decision should be based on risk and the mitigation of those risks.

**Member’s instructions are requested.**