

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Subject : Close Churchyard Policy
Committee : Services Committee
Date : 4 Apr 2022
Author : Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager

1. Report Summary:

1.1. This report introduces a draft policy concerning Closed Churchyards within the parish boundary.

2. Background:

2.1. This policy is needed as under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972, a Parochial Church Council (PCC) can require the local authority, upon three months notice, to assume responsibility for the maintenance of a closed churchyard, or specific parts of a churchyard which are deemed to be closed.

2.2. Salisbury City Council currently maintains five closed churchyards:

- St Thomas's
- St Martin's
- St Clement's (Secret Garden)
- St Andrew's
- Lower Bemerton St John's place

2.3. This policy outlines the minimum standard that Salisbury City Council will maintain the grounds of a closed churchyard in its care.

2.4. This policy outlines how and when memorial safety inspections of a closed churchyard within its care.

3. Implementation:

3.1. The Council's maintenance of these sites will ensure that they are safe to visitors and maintained to the standards set out in the policy.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommend that

4.1. The Services Committee approve the policy.

5. Wards Affected: All

6. Background papers: Doc 85166 – Draft Closed Churchyard Policy

7. Implications:

7.1. **Financial:** As outlined in the policy

7.2. **Legal:** As outlined in the policy

7.3. **Personnel:** None

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** As outlined in the policy.

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** The council's maintenance of these sites will ensure that they are safe to all visitors, however specific improvements such as pathways, shrubbery etc, will have a positive impact on those who may have physical disabilities or conditions, which means they could be less mobile