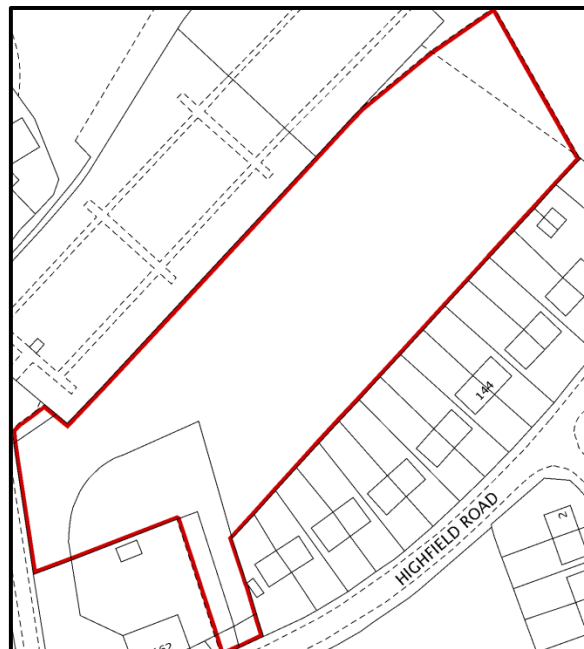


## Leased Land Adjacent to the Cemetery

### Background

The land below is leased from British Coal (now managed by CISWO) on a 125 year term (ending 24 March 2122) granting permitted use as a public playing field, amenity land and children's playgrounds in exchange for a peppercorn rent. More than 20 years ago there used to be a children's play area and a skateboard/bmx facility onsite. However, these facilities fell into disrepair and the amenity land has become overgrown with a sense that nature has reclaimed it. It should be noted that the trees on-site are subject to inspection by an arboriculturist, the land is covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance and is checked by our grounds maintenance staff.



### Plans

At the Parish Council's April 2022 meeting, the following projects were identified, minute extract below:

#### 295 **Projects**

It was **RESOLVED** to identify 3 of the projects with a priority status contained within the appendix with the land at 7<sup>th</sup> avenue and the re-purposing of the former morgue added to the outstanding projects list. Progress would be contingent on available resource.

- i. New cemetery fence
- ii. Cemetery topple testing and to determine the extent of an unsafe memorial process
- iii. Reinststate community amenities and re-siting of container on CISWO owned land

Contact was made with CISWO to seek their permission to re-site the container onto the amenity land as part of the new cemetery fence project. CISWO has replied stating that it is not inclined to grant permission for a new purpose when the land is not being utilised for its current purpose.

### Considerations

Therefore, do the Parish Council want to proceed at this time with only a new fence along the entrance to the cemetery (not the road entrance off Highfield Road)? Or does it wish to wait until new amenities are installed on the CISWO owned land and seek CISWO's permission to re-site the container and conclude the project with new fencing and gates to the CISWO owned land and along the front of the cemetery?

It is noted that the current cemetery vehicle gates are awkward and require a level of force when Parish Council employees close the cemetery each day. The pedestrian access gates remain permanently closed due to the boundary wall being supported by wooden batons.

Should the Parish Council agree to proceed with the installation of new amenity facilities on the CISWO owned land first, then it is recommended that resource needs to be identified to progress this project, as well as priorities and budget. It is anticipated that time should be allowed for consultation with residents who neighbour the land and the wider community to help shape the facilities.