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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7pm in the Westlake Room, The Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common.

### Minutes

**Present:** Councillor Mark Tattum (Chairman), Councillor Judy Lea (Vice Chairman), Councillor Will Heard, Councillor Marie-Louise Marsden, Councillor Sheila Cooper, Councillor Christina O'Sullivan, Councillor Lionel King, Councillor Lee Quinney, Councillor Helen Dean and Councillor Richard Lloyd and approximately 12 members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None
3. **Public Forum.**

A member of the public said that there was a factual inaccuracy in last month's minutes concerning a planning application. He had written to Councillors Cooper. The Chair said that the notes recorded what was said. The matter would be checked by Councillor Cooper and the Chair but the Chair apologised if what had been recorded was factually inaccurate. The matter would be reviewed in contact with the complainant.

4. **To Approve and Sign as a Correct Record:**

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 15 February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

Councillor Lloyd said he had been in contact with Transport for West Midlands concerning the positioning a bus stop along the bus route at Temple Balsall. (item 11 of the Minutes of 15 February 2017).

6. **Proposal to appeal to the Magistrates Court the decision of the Solihull Borough Council Licensing Committee to grant Shell Garage, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common a 24 hour license to sell alcohol and late night refreshments 23:00 - 05:00, for consumption off the premises.**

A member of the public who had expressed considerable objection to the original application reiterated her complete dismay as to why anyone would need to purchase alcohol at such late hours and particularly from a petrol station with the implication that people may drink and drive. This view was echoed by other members of the public and Councillors. Chair pointed out there could be legal costs to make any appeal.

**RESOLVED to appeal to the Magistrates Court the decision of the Solihull Borough Council Licensing Committee to grant Shell Garage, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common a 24 hour license to sell alcohol and late night refreshments 23:00 - 05:00, for consumption off the premises.**

7. **Proposal to make amendments to the Grant Awarding policy in connection with grants of less than £300.**

**Resolved to make amendments to the Grant Awarding policy in connection with grants of less than £300 as follows:**

In section 1 third sub paragraph change the last sentence from

"Grants will not be awarded for expenditure already undertaken."

To

"Grants will not be awarded for expenditure already undertaken except in exceptional circumstances and then for no more than £300. The Council will not make more than one Grant of this nature, to the same applicant, within the same financial year.

In Section 2 third sub paragraph instead of

"For applications under £1,000 supplying of these documents with the application form will considerably assist their application."

substitute the following:-

"For applications under £1,000 supplying of these documents with the application form will considerably assist their application. Applications under £300 will be considered on merit and without the need to supply detailed documentation in support. The Council may, however, request further information."

8. **Grant Application from Balsall Common Library:**

**Resolved to award grant to Balsall Common Library**

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**9. Accounts:**

Councillor Heard said that the Finance Committee had approved the bank reconciliation and the list of current account transactions. He pointed out that the Jubilee Centre had still not cashed a grant cheque that was awarded some months ago and said it was only current for six months. Councillor Lloyd said that the new Jubilee Centre managers were aware of the grant but he thought it unlikely that the cheque would be cashed. Councillor Heard asked that the cheque be returned to the Council.

**Resolved to approve the list of orders to be placed, accounts for approval and payments made.**

**10. Proposal to create a memorial garden at Temple Balsall Cemetery.**

Cllr Marsden presented her preferred scheme selected from tenders received for proposals to create a Memorial Garden at Temple Balsall Cemetery. Cllr Marsden advised that the cost would be in the region of £6500. The Council made provision in the budget for 2017/18 for improvements to the Cemetery.

**Resolved to proceed with the scheme as presented with a maximum budget of £7000 (scheme attached in appendix)**

**11. Clerk Vacancy:**

Councillor Tattum said that he expected to announce the recruitment of a new Clerk at the April Council meeting.

**12. Proposal to agree to an amended scheme for the CCTV installation in the village centre.**

Councillor Tattum advised that we are awaiting a final amended scheme from the contractors that is approved by Transport for West Midlands who will be monitoring and recording the CCTV footage from the village centre.

**13. Proposal to set up a Village Centre working party to produce an action plan with SMBC**

**Resolved to set up a Village Centre working party to manage improvement of the village centre with SMBC. Members of the working group are Cllr Lea, Cooper, Marsden, O'Sullivan, Lloyd.**

**14. Proposal to request a Community Governance Review.**

Proposal presented by Councillor Tattum (proposal attached in appendix)

Cllrs Cooper, Quinney, Dean, O'Sullivan, Heard, Lea, Marsden all spoke in support of the proposal.

**Resolved to request a Community Governance Review by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to unite Balsall Common within one Parish west of HS2 and to create the distinctive rural Parish of Berkswell to the east of HS2.**

**15. Report from Council Representatives and Working Parties:**

(15.1) Cllr. Lea - Balsall Common Residents Assoc. and the Village Hall.

Cllr Lea reported Malcolm Hicken's view that Balsall and Berkswell PCs should use the same consultant for their NDPs. 42 sacks had been filled with rubbish by the scouts including 29 adults. The BCVRA AGM will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> April in the village hall. The village hall floor is damp. It is being checked over by a contractor. The Village Hall Trust has got the money to deal with the matter.

(15.2) Cllr. Marsden - Lant Trust.

Nothing to report.

(15.3) Cllr. Cooper – HS2

Cllr Cooper had received a letter from Dame Caroline Spelman which enclosed a letter from the Chairman of HS2 David Higgins the content of which underlined that we must continue to fight for the interest of Balsall Common. She said that of late Dame Caroline Spelman had been much more positive about supporting the cause.

(15.4) Cllr. Quinney – Willow Park

Cllr Quinney will be organising a working party meeting soon.

**16. Planning Matters:**

**(16.1) 00486**

16 Ferndale Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7AH

Single story rear extension to form a dining room extension

**Resolved to make no comment**

**(16.2) 00450**

Trevallion Stud, Wootten Green Lane, CV7 7BQ

Construction of a pitched roof to existing bungalow

**Resolved to make no comment**

**(16.3) 00097**

1 Kelsey Lane, Balsall Common, CV7 7GR

Partial demolition of existing dwelling, erection of attached garage to side of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwellings (3 bedroom, 2 story, semi-detached)

**Resolved to lodge objections to the planning application on the grounds that the proposed work was completely out of keeping with the area, would affect the street scene adversely and would produce over intensification. It is an undesirable garden grab development with highways issues with up to 9 cars might need to be parked right next door to the busiest junction in the village.**

**(16.4) 00480**

35 Balsall Street East, Balsall Common, CV7 7FQ

Demolition of existing garage to accommodate new annex and construction of new garage

**Resolved to make no comment**

**(16.5) 00520**

17 Speedwell Drive, Balsall Common, CV7 7AU

Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of single storey rear extension

**Resolved to make no comment**

**(16.6) 00482**

284A Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7ER

Vary condition 2 on approved planning application 2000/249/S (PL/2009/00320/CU) to read: "The use hereby permitted shall not be open to customers outside the following hours 8.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturdays and 10.00am to 1.00pm on Sundays and Public Holidays.)

**Resolved to make no comment**

**17. Planning Applications arriving after Agenda is published.**

None.

19. Correspondence.

18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12 April 7pm in Westlake room at the Village Hall.

Appendices

1. Proposal to create a memorial garden at Temple Balsall Cemetery.
2. Proposal to request a Community Governance Review.

  
Chairman

12/4/17

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# Proposal to request a Community Governance Review

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To unite Balsall  
Common within one  
Parish west of HS2  
and to create the  
distinctive rural Parish  
of Berkswell to the  
east of HS2

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For discussion at Balsall Parish  
Council meeting 15 March 2017

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A key way of living together is to have a shared future vision and sense of belonging for each of the distinct communities east and west of the HS2 railway line

A proposal to request Solihull Council to conduct a community governance review with the purpose to unite Balsall Common within one parish, by moving from the existing anomalous parish boundary, to the easily identified strong boundary marked by the HS2 railway line east of Balsall Common. The new strong easily identified boundary would also create a distinctive rural parish to the east of the HS2 line with Berkswell village at its centre.

A community governance review offers an opportunity to put in place strong clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features; and remove any anomalous parish boundaries. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for a principal council to conduct a community governance review at any time. The implications on Balsall Common of royal assent to HS2, the housing expansion plans in the Solihull Local Plan Review and plans for completing a neighbourhood area plan make this a very appropriate time for a review.

It is desirable for effective community representation and efficient local administration that a parish should reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place, with its own sense of identity. The views of the local inhabitants of the entire settlement of Balsall Common and the rural residents are of central importance.



One Parish for the entire settlement of Balsall Common will help to create community cohesion for the local community where people can feel they have a stake in the society, and in the local area where they live by having the opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives.

One parish for Balsall Common can better contribute to the creation of a successful community by influencing the quality of planning and design of public spaces and the built environment, as well as improving the management and maintenance of such amenities.

One parish for Balsall Common will build a sense of local identity and can make an important contribution to local community cohesion because our local area is facing challenges arising from rapid demographic change as proposed in the Solihull Draft Local Plan. In considering the criteria, a community governance review can home in on communities as offering a sense of place and of local identity for all existing and future residents.

One parish council representing and financed fairly by all of the residents of Balsall Common would be well placed to ensure the local community should have access to good quality local services ideally in one place. One council to represent the collective interests of all residents of Balsall Common to other organisations such as Solihull Council Departments, HS2, Birmingham Airport, Transport West Midlands and one council to represent the distinctive interest of the rural residents with the independent voice of a Berkswell Parish.

In its response to the recommendations of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion the Government has defined community cohesion as what must happen in all communities to enable

different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another.

The 2007 Act require principal councils to have regard to the need to secure that community governance reflects the identity and interests of local communities; the impact on community cohesion is linked strongly to it. Cohesion issues are connected to the way people perceive how their local community is composed and what it represents. One parish for Balsall Common and one parish for rural Berkswell will improve cohesion in each community.

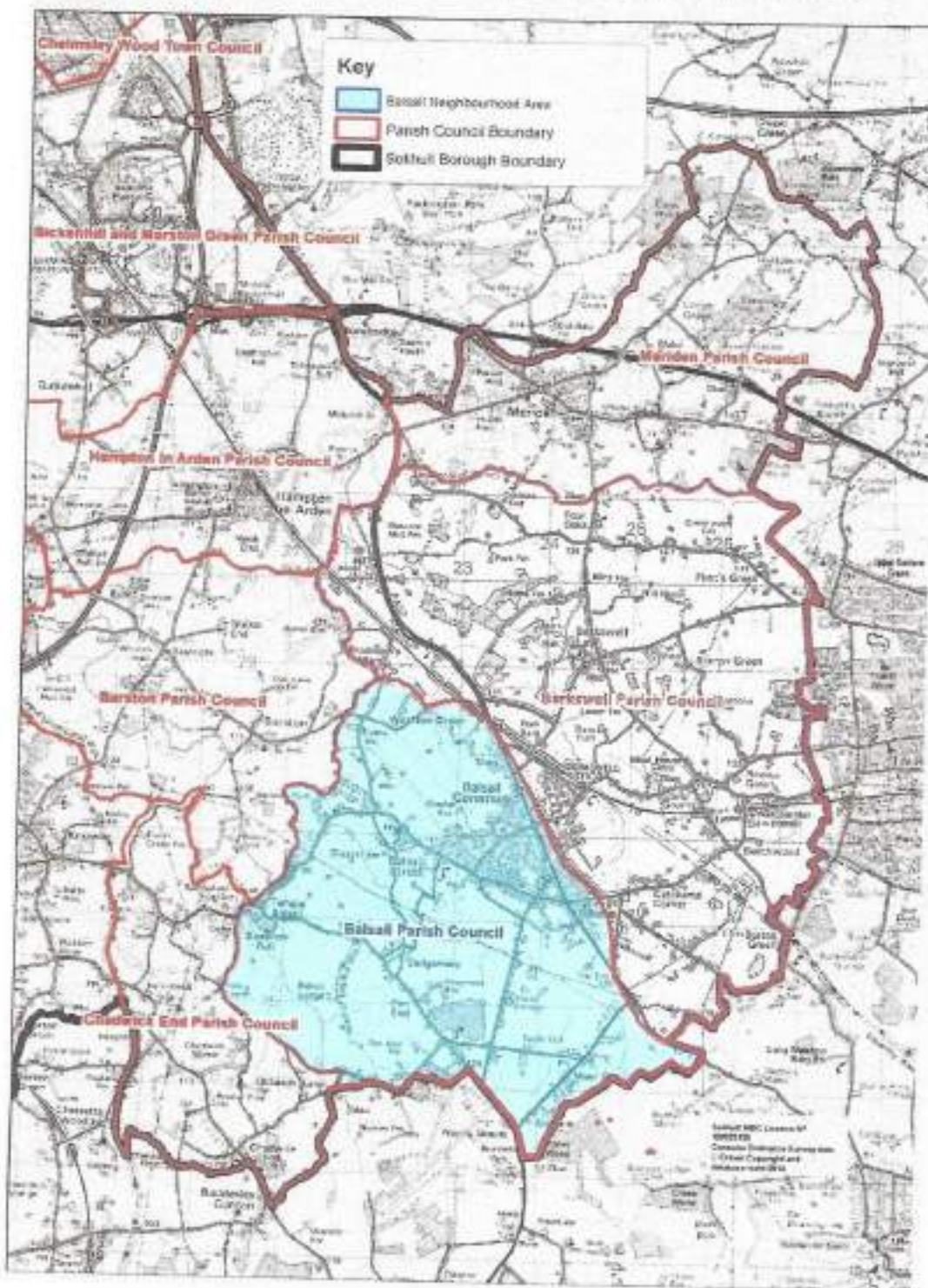
As far as boundaries between parishes are concerned, these should reflect the "no-man's land" between communities represented by areas of low population such as in the west of Balsall Parish or barriers such as the HS2 railway line to the east of the settlement of Balsall Common. Boundaries need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable.

A community governance Review of the parish boundary between Balsall Parish and Berkswell Parish now is an opportunity to put in place strong boundaries, tied to a firm ground detail and to remove the existing anomalous parish boundary that unfairly splits the settlement of Balsall Common for existing and future residents.

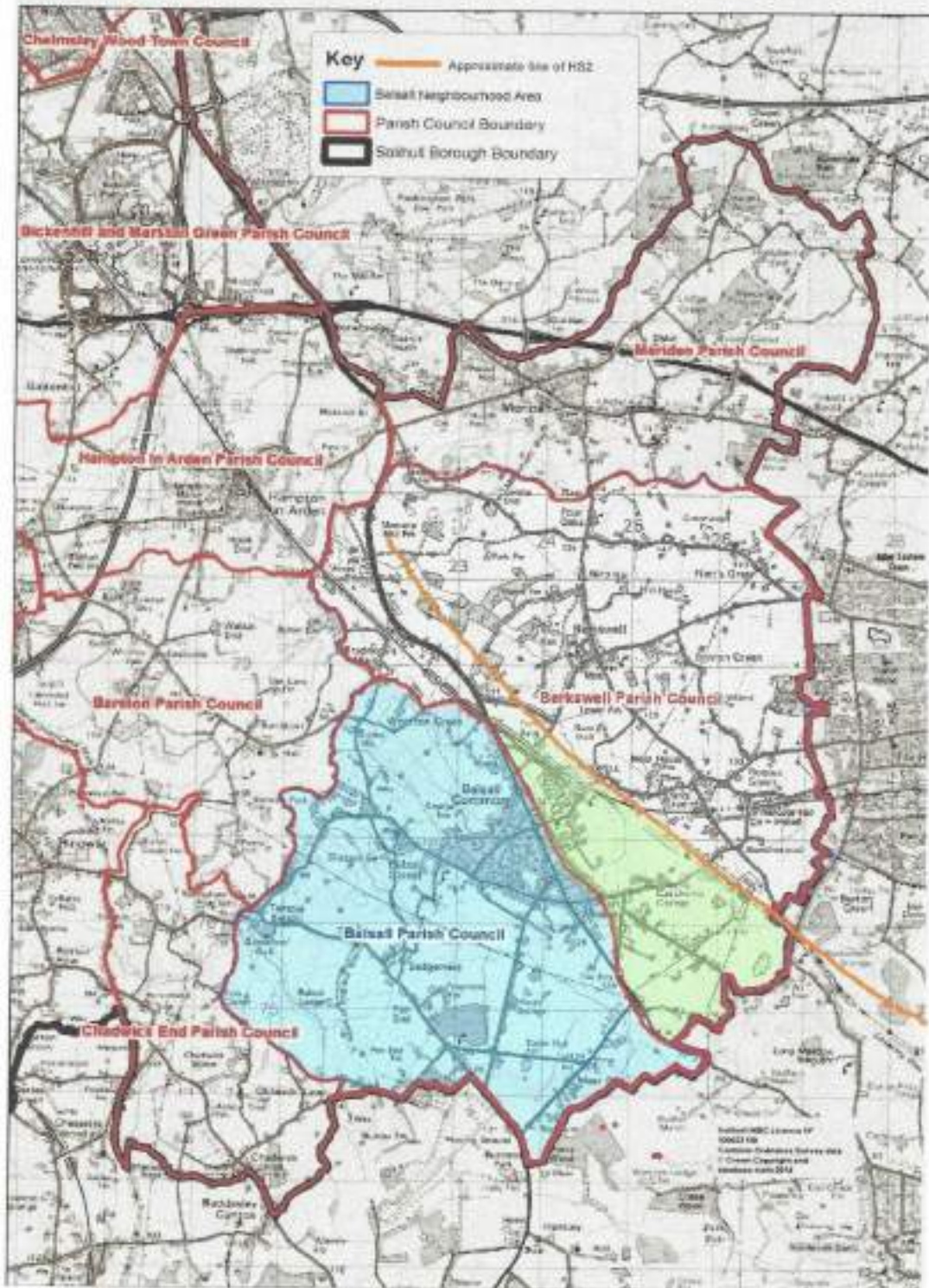
Mark Tattum

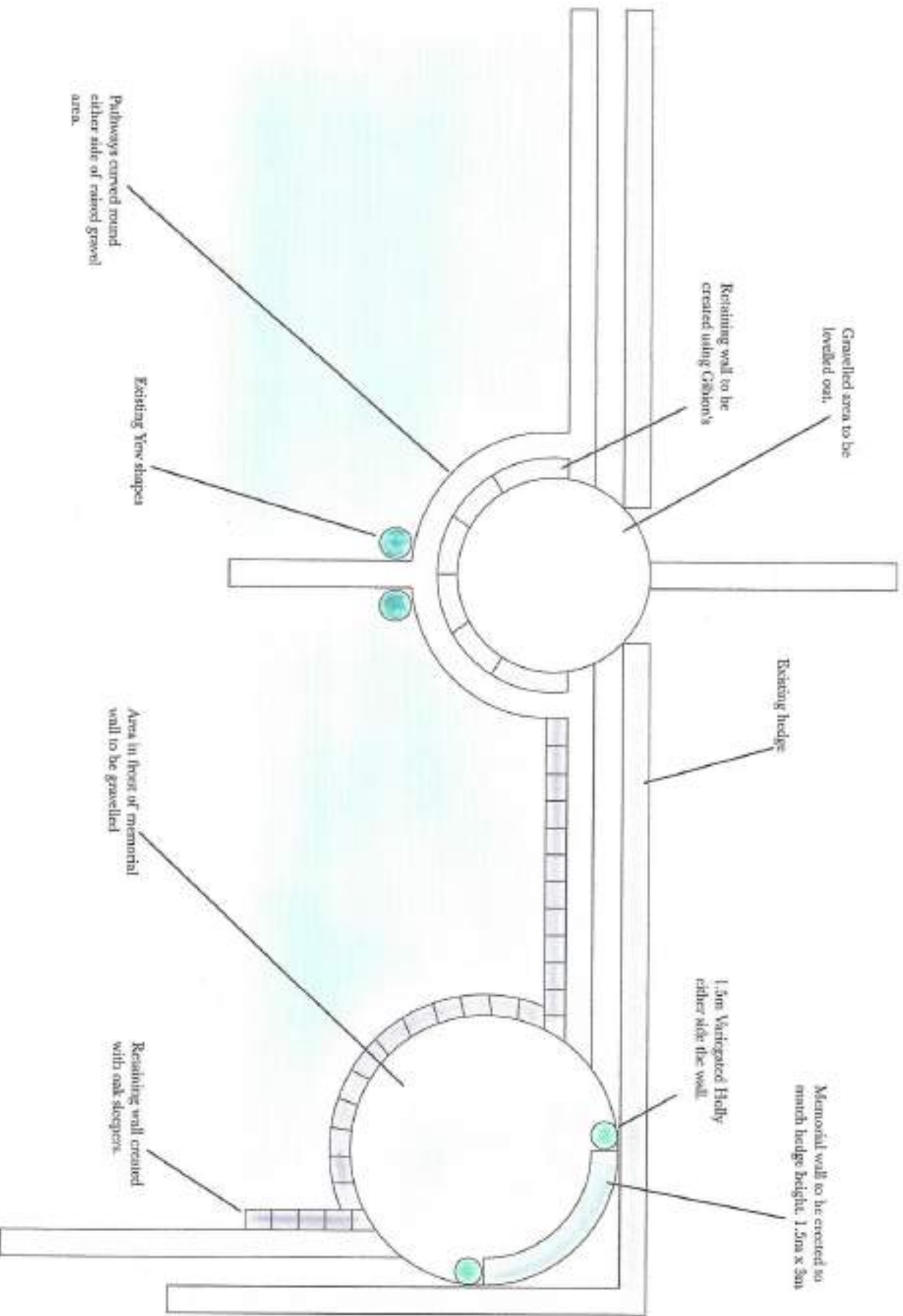
1 March 2017

## Appendix 1: Existing Parish Boundaries



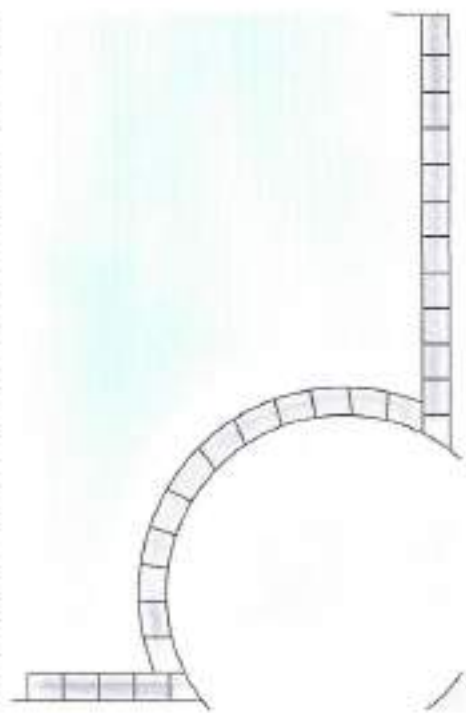
## Appendix 2: Proposed New Parish Boundary



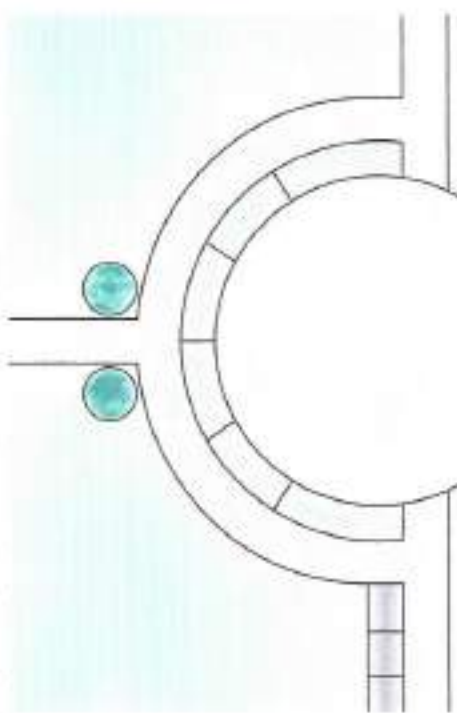


Brown 2015

Examples.



The oak sleeper wall will be erected to retain the raised gravel area in front of the wall and the pathway leading towards.

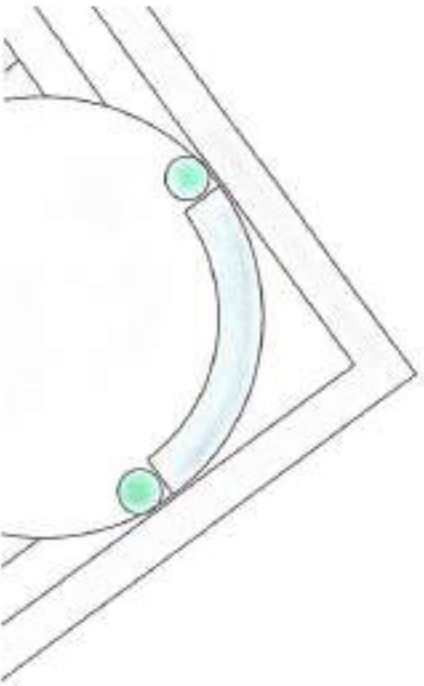


A gabion wall will be created to retain the raised gravel area which will be raised to create a level area as you enter this section of the cemetery



quote for sleep  
stone use  
instead gab

## Examples.



Rio garden walling

The wall will be built curving 3m long and 1.5m high with a gravel area in front. Using either one of the materials shown or another desired product. Plaques can then be fitted onto the wall at any time.

A seat could also be created, at an additional cost, within the wall to allow families to spend time with their loved ones.



Excelsior walling