

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2017

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE CLOSURE OF A
CHURCHYARD – ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, LEAFIELD**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

(Contact: Paul Cracknell, Tel: (01993) 861523

(The Cabinet's decision on this matter will be a resolution.)

1. PURPOSE

To consider the Council's response to the Notice of Intention to apply for the closure of the Churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church, Leaffield.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council raises no objections to the closure of the churchyard.

3. BACKGROUND

Notice has been received from the Leaffield with Wychwood Parochial Church Council that it has applied to the Ministry of Justice to discontinue burials in the Churchyard under Section 1 of the Burials Act 1853 on the grounds that there is no proper room for new graves.

Under the terms of the Act, the Parochial Church Council must notify the District Council of its intention to make such application and the District Council must determine whether or not it wishes to raise objection to the closure.

The Parochial Church Council has indicated that it intends to transfer responsibility for the maintenance of the closed churchyard to the Leaffield Parish Council.

Given that sufficient alternative provision for burials is available, Officers can see no reason to raise objections to the application and the Cabinet is recommended accordingly.

4. OPTIONS

Should the Cabinet wish to raise objections to the application, Members would need to indicate why it is considered that the burial ground should not be closed under the grounds specified.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Once the a churchyard is closed, a Parochial Church Council may pass its responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard to the Parish Council (under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972) which is obliged in law to accept that responsibility. Parish Councils may also pass this responsibility on to the District Council.

6. RISKS

Not applicable.

7. REASONS

Not applicable

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Date: 19 October 2017

Background papers – application and covering letter dated 17 October 2017