

Memorial Stone Safety Check Report

To: Meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee – 5th September 2023

From: Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy

Date: Tuesday, the 5th of September 2023 at 7pm

1. Reason for Report

On the 26th July 2023, Memsafe Ltd (specialists in Memorial Safety Management) completed a safety check of all memorial stones at the Holy Cross Churchyard, 273 stones in total.

I have prepared this report to request that members consider and approve the Memsafe recommendations for securing unsafe memorials at the Holy Cross Churchyard.

2. Background

The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Holy Cross Churchyard. It is unclear on when the last memorial safety check was carried out, and recommended by the Institute of Cemetery Management that safety checks are carried out every five years. In July 2023, and as agreed at the June meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, I commissioned Memsafe to carry out a safety check of all memorial stones at the Holy Cross Churchyard.

3. Financial Implications

There is £3,500 in the budget for the Holy Cross Churchyard. If members approve the above recommendation, there will be £160 left towards maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. Some tree work has been identified by a qualified tree surgeon; the costs of this work can be taken out of the remainder of the Holy Cross Churchyard budget plus the tree budget which currently stands at £6,000.

4. Recommendations

4.1 To approve all recommendations as included in the Memsafe report (appendix one) for safety repairs at a total cost of £3,340