

To receive an update on the P.C.C registering the churchyard as closed and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Information:

Further information has been sought for Members consideration regarding the process and associated costs to consider when closing a churchyard. The following link and questions are provided by the Ministry of Justice:

How do you close a Churchyard? – The relevant application form and guidance can be located here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-to-close-a-churchyard>

Are there any costs? The Ministry of Justice does not charge, however, it may be worth seeking independent legal advice, at a cost. In the first instance it is probably best approaching the Diocese (who would need to be consulted in any case).

What happens after the Churchyard is closed? By this do you mean in respect of maintenance costs? The Church would need to contact Saltash Town Council to discuss them taking over maintenance if the Church so wished to do so. Again, independent legal advice is recommended, at a cost. The Ministry of Justice itself is not a party to any agreement to transfer maintenance.

What can the Church do and not do when the churchyard is closed? The various exceptions in a closed churchyard are set out in the guidance above. They may or may not be relevant to St Stephens. The land would remain church land.

Cornwall Council also have a lot of information located on their website: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/closed-churchyards/>

