

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE  
15 JANUARY 2025**

**Officer:** Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

**SCROOGE'S GRAVESTONE**

**Purpose of Report**

- (i) To update the Committee on the Town Council's involvement in the repair of Scrooge's Gravestone;
- (ii) To approve required costs.

**Background**

Scrooge's Gravestone is a legacy of the 1984 filming of A Christmas Carol in Shrewsbury. The gravestone was an original gravestone which was originally situated in Old St Chad's Graveyard and following Home Office permissions at the time was relocated and engraved.

After the film the gravestone remained insitu and since has become a tourist attraction in its own right.

On the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November the gravestone was vandalised and police were notified. A call out on social media for anyone knowing the perpetrators resulted in the news going global with the story being picked up locally, by all the national papers and internationally in the New York Times, Washington Post and South China News. The public outcry was one of anger and there was an expectation that the gravestone be repaired.

The gravestone was one of those assets which technically have an owner but required action. Officer therefore commenced discussions with the Town Council's framework stone mason who agreed to repair the stone for free.

There was however a requirement to seek Diocesan approval. This was not an easy task requiring a lot of work to prove to the Chancellor of the Diocese that repairs could not wait for a formal Faculty Application.

The Chancellor granted permission for the Town Council to undertake the necessary repairs, providing an Interim Faculty Application was submitted followed by a Full Faculty Application by the end of February. The Town Clerk submitted the necessary applications before Christmas but has not commenced the Full Faculty Application yet as there are various permissions required from the Parochial Church Council.

**RECOMMENDED**

- (i) That the Committee notes the report and Town Council's involvement in the repairs to Scrooge's Gravestone;
- (ii) That the Council send a letter of thanks to Midland Masonry for their excellent work;
- (iii) That the Council authorises the £472.50 fee for the Faculty Application to the Lichfield Diocese.