Report on Memorial Management training
September 2026

Representative from Melbourn Parish Council (MPC) attended the course presented by ICCM on Management of Memorials, the gentleman running the course was very knowledgeable and really highlighted the issues around meeting our obligation as cemetery managers and the safety of the public, balanced with the sensitivity needed to deal with the bereaved families.

Moving forward, we will be implementing record keeping and demonstrating that we have undertaken testing. Testing will be completed on a schedule so we can mitigate risk. We have been shown different ways of dealing with headstones deemed dangerous, and we can look at which method may suit the needs of the community, cemetery and level of danger posed.

Attendees gained a clear understanding of the importance of effective headstone management. The course highlighted that, where processes are not properly followed, the consequences can be significant. As a result, there is a strong commitment to ensuring that appropriate procedures and best practice are maintained.

The proposal will be that we take a section at a time and assess and act on what is needed and then move to another section. This helps us to keep a clear record of every headstone so that over time we can track changes and prove we are meeting our legal obligations.

Initially an overview will be undertaken and will select areas of highest risk starting in Orchard Road Cemetery and moving onto New Road Cemetery. Once that has been undertaken, a proposal which details options available and costs involved can be presented. Once established this can over the longer term ensure cemeteries will pose a consistently low risk to safety.

Lucy Capper, 9 September 2026