

History does not relate why only half of Walpole cemetery was consecrated in the first instance when it was created on farmland owned by the Porter family many years ago.

With residents living locally, as well as those who have moved away but want to be buried back in this village for personal or family reasons, wishing to reserve a plot, it became apparent to the parish council that this unusual omission should be rectified. After some weeks of negotiation, Bishop Gavin, the Honorary Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, duly came to Walpole on Thursday 6 November 2014 (happily a sunny day) to carry out the c o n s e c r a t i o n



ceremony in the cemetery, accompanied by a small group of parishioners.

Afterwards the Bishop returned to the pavilion for well-earned refreshments and to sign the 'solemn ordinance' that confirms the consecration of the burial ground for the interment of the dead.



He and the Parish Clerk Raymond Catchpole sat appropriately beneath one of the collection of historic village hall plaques dating from 1905.

There is now ample space in Walpole cemetery for interments without graves being too close together. Funeral parties will have clear access with wide stretches of grass on either side of the central pathway on which to gather.