



PARKING WOES: The cars parked at St David's Church in Carmarthen.

Urgent talks due on state of graveyard

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URGENT talks are expected over the rapidly deteriorating and dangerous state of the old graveyard at St David's Church, Carmarthen.

Together with cars using the entrance as a regular place to park and blocking access to the newer graveyard.

The town council is seeking to meet with the county council and representatives of the Church in Wales in hope of getting the new owner of the church to take action.

The future remains unclear for the Grade II listed building in Picton Terrace – which was bought by Caernarfon-based property developer M Aaron Hill for just £1 four years ago from the Church in Wales.

Back in March, plans by Mr Hill to turn it into a private home were thrown out by county planners.

Canon Patrick Thomas who is revered of the parish which included the church and nearby Christchurch said: "When the church was sold our parish retained responsibility for the new churchyard."

"We were given the right of access to this churchyard for funerals and maintenance.

For several years our churchyard committee worked, with the assistance of contractors, to keep our area of the churchyard in an acceptable condition.

There has, however been a growing problem of unauthorised parking in the churchyard entrance, including the area leading to the new churchyard. This has now increased to such



CAR CONCERNS: Canon Patrick Thomas at St David's Church in Carmarthen.

an extent that it is impossible for our contractors to get their machines to the churchyard to cut the grass, there are acute difficulties for undertakers and mourners whenever there is a burial or an interment of ashes, and the monumental masons face problems with installing gravestones."

He added: "We are working with the Church in Wales to find a lasting solution, which will enable us to care for our area of the churchyard properly."

Turning to the problems at the old cemetery with a loose wall and overgrowth of several feet in places the town council remains extremely concerned.

Several councillors spoke at a meeting of the town council with all agreeing the building was in danger of falling into a similar slump and further

disrepair as the Priory Street infirmary. There was particular concern for the old graveyard.

Councillor Alan Speake said: "Planning officers from the council visited the grave yard and said it was in an acceptable state which I don't think any of us believe."

Councillor Phil Grice the problem was trying to get the owner to listen to concerns of Carmarthen and to take action.

Ken Lloyd added: "There is the path from St Nons Avenue where the wall is and I am worried that someone, especially children who use it are going to get hurt."

"We don't know what could fall from that church, the state it's in and the loose boundary wall."

It is hoped talks will take place soon over the church.