

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/05/28 – 01

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Harris (Chairman), B Berryman, V Hobman, C Matthews, B Pearman and B Thomas

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

1. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Berryman proposed Cllr Harris for the position. **Seconded by Cllr Hobman.** As no other nominations were received the motion was put to a vote. Unanimous.

Cllr Harris informed all present that no practice fire evacuation had been scheduled for the duration of the meeting. All attendees were then informed of the locations of the nearest fire exits.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Edwards.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Matthews – agenda item 6 – Lydney Cemetery (Old Garden of Remembrance)

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

N/A – New Council Committee

5. **OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

6. **LYDNEY CEMETERY**

Old Garden of Remembrance

Members were informed that the Council had received a number of complaints regarding the appearance/lack of tendered maintenance by relatives of the Old Garden of Remembrance. Accordingly, Members were asked to consider issuing formal notice of its intention to remove from the area all weeds/shrubs/ornaments in order that an appropriate membrane could be laid and then covered with recycled glass to provide uniform dignity. The CEO recommended that a 12 month notice period be observed, with Public Notices placed in the local press at the commencement of the notice period, then after six months and finally at the end of the 12 month period, in addition to placing notices in the Cemetery and also in the Council's newsletter.

Cllr Matthews declared an interest at this point.

Cllrs Harris and Hobman spoke in support of the suggestion and it was stressed that only memorial vases would then be permitted to be placed on the area. It was accepted that the cost of undertaking the work would need to be included in the Committee's budget considerations for 2014/15 (commitment carried forward). Responding to a question which had been raised by Cllr Harris, the CEO advised that a high degree of time had been



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/05/28 – 02

expended by Ground Staff in weeding the area during the summer months. It was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that the Council would agree to the removal of all weeds/shrubs/ornaments from the Old Garden of Remembrance due to the length of time expended by Ground Staff in keeping the area clear and that an appropriate membrane would then be laid and topped with green enviro-glass on completion of the notice period.

The CEO sought clarification that the Committee wished to issue 12 month's notice of its intention; that 2 x Public Notices would be placed in the local press; that notices would also be included in the Town Council's newsletters. **The motion was put to a vote which was carried, with one abstention.**

Action by – the CEO

Interments

Members were reminded that Cllr W Osborne had previously requested that the Council give consideration towards the reuse of grave space however, it was noted from the advice obtained by the CEO from Welters that the re-use of graves was not recommend at this present moment in time.

Members were reminded the Cllr Berryman had previously approached Aylburton Parish Council to ascertain if they would be willing for Millennium Wood to be utilised as "shared" green burial space and that a response was awaited. Members were advised that Coleford Town Council possessed a number of spaces in their Cemetery; it was suggested that a link to their website could be included on the Town Council's website, however it was noted that a large number of residents may wish to be interred in their own Parish, hence the necessity to further discussions with Aylburton Parish Council and Lydney Park Estate.

It was **proposed by Cllr Pearman, seconded by Cllr Thomas**, that the Council would arrange a meeting with Robert Hitchins Limited in order to discuss the possible acquisition of land. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

Cllr Thomas proposed that Welters be provided with a plan of the land alongside Bathurst Pool previously offered by Lydney Park Estate; that they be advised of the watercourse problems and be asked to provide a price for utilising the land as raised Cemetery provision. **Seconded by Cllr Matthews.** Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

Green Burial Space

It was **proposed by Cllr Harris** that Delegated Power would be granted to the CEO and two Councillors to discuss the possible provision of green burial space with Lydney Park Estate. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

7. ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Members were reminded that historically the Council had agreed to take on the maintenance responsibility for the Closed Churchyard. The CEO advised that it would be necessary to undertake a degree of maintenance on the walls of the Churchyard as it had been brought to her attention that a section of the wall had fallen down. Members noted that photographs of the fallen wall would be taken and quotations obtained for its repair,

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/05/28 – 03

however, it may be necessary to include the repair of the wall in the budget for 2014/15 if sufficient provision could not be found in the current budget as the Council had a legal obligation to maintain/repair said walls.

It was also felt that the current “conservation” area may no longer be required and the CEO sought permission to approach the Church Warden to discuss the possible use of the area as a wild flower area and also the provision of planted flower tubs at the entrance to the Church. **Proposed by Cllr Pearman, seconded by Cllr Berryman. Unanimous.**
Action by – the CEO

8. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

None.

9. **MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 22 July 2013 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.02 pm.

Chairman 

Date 14.10.13