

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/11/25 – 06

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 25 November 2013 at 6.31 pm.

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

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

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.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Berryman.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members noted that the minutes of the last meeting (held as part of the Full Council meeting on 14 October 2013), had been agreed as part of the minutes for the November Full Council meeting.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

5. **BUDGET 2014/15**

Members were provided with a copy of the budget provision for 2014-2015 which had been collated in line with minuted approval. It was noted that the budget, amounting to £39,808.00 had included a provision for memorial testing and the CEO advised that advice was currently being obtained relating to English Law for monument testing.

Approval of the budget provision of £39,808.00 for the 2014-2015 financial year was proposed by Cllr Harris. Unanimous.

6. **LYDNEY CEMETERY**

Removal of Tarmac and provision of edging

Members were reminded of the approval given previously to remove two areas of tarmac surrounding New Gardens of Remembrance C & D, in order to extend the interment area. Copies of the two quotations which had been obtained were provided to Members.

Responding to a question which had been raised by Cllr Matthews, it was felt that the removal of the tarmac areas would provide at least a further 10-15 burial spaces and still allow access for a hearse and family car. During discussion it was felt that the income generated from the additional burial space would cover the cost of the work, and also created much needed additional burial space in the Cemetery.

S. Harris

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Attention was then drawn to the quotations which had also been obtained for the tarmacking/edging of the entrance path to the Cemetery in order to prevent a slip/trip hazard. Members compared the quotations which had been obtained from the two contractors who had also quoted for the removal of the tarmac areas. **Cllr Harris** proposed acceptance of the quotation from Forest Driveways for the removal of the tarmac areas, tarmacking/edging the entrance path to the Cemetery (including the area in front of the entrance gates) for the sum of £8,855.00 (plus VAT) with the funding taken from earmarked reserves, plus the cost of reseeding the area. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

Creation of Additional Footpath

Members were advised of the request which had been received from Mrs Scott, Harrison Way, for an additional path/gravel to be laid in order that she could access her son's grave. Whilst Members noted Mrs Scott's concerns regarding the muddy area over which she had to traverse to reach her son's grave, it was **proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Matthews** that whilst Council would not provide a footpath/gravel, it would request that Ground Staff aerate the area to assist with drainage. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

Cllr Berryman arrived at this point.

Grave Service

Following a request which had been received from a member of the public, Council were asked to consider if they wished to provide a service to relatives wishing to "top up" sunken graves. During discussion it was felt that 3-4 requests for this type of service were received over the course of a year and it was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that Delegated Powers would be granted to the CEO to approach Mr T Trueman to ascertain if he would be interested in providing such a service, with a 10% admin charge then levied in addition to the cost of the work. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

CEMETRY EXTENSION

It was noted that Towns throughout the country were facing similar problems with lack of suitable burial space. Cllr Harris felt that a press release should be issued regarding the reluctance by The Ramblers Association for the Public Footpath on the strip of land adjacent to the Cemetery to be repositioned to the far border of the area, thereby enabling the remaining land to be used for burial provision. It was suggested that the Council may wish to request land owners/Developers to come forward with parcels of land which they felt could be suitable for use a burial space.

GREEN BURIAL SITE

Cllr Berryman sought approval for himself and Cllr Harris to attend a future meeting of Aylburton Parish Council in order to discuss the Council's interest in working in partnership with Lydney Park Estate and the Parish Council to utilise Millennium Wood as Green Burial space. The CEO reminded Members of the need to consider the implications on staffing levels should the Council elect to assume responsibility for additional areas of land/the Millennium Wood. Noted.



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It was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that she and Cllr Berryman would attend a future meeting of Aylburton Parish Council to explore partnership working between the Council, the Parish Council and Lydney Park Estate for the future use of Millennium Wood.
Unanimous.

Action by – Cllrs Harris and Berryman

9. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

None.

10. **MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 27 January 2014 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 6.57 pm.

Chairman

Harris

Date

5.1.15