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LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2018/11/26 – 04

MINUTES OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 26 November 2018 at 6.48 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs H Ives (Chairman), B Berryman, K Greening, C Harris and B Pearman
Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer

Cllr Ives 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 accepted from Cllrs Christodoulides, Preest and White.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members noted that the minutes of the last meeting were duly approved/authorised at the end of the last Burial Committee Meeting.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

5. **ADDITIONAL BURIAL/CEMETERY PROVISION**

Members were advised that the Athelstan Trust had suggested that the Council may wish to contact Mr Mark Harper MP again, as no response had been received. Furthermore, the Trust suggested that it would be necessary for Mr K J Toombs to submit a further report stating that he was acting in an impartial capacity in the matter and state his formal qualifications.

The CEO informed Members that she would circulate the response which had been received from Sport England.

Action by – the CEO

6. **PEAR DIGITAL BURIAL ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM**

Members noted that a draft plan of the Cemetery had now been received which would assist with the plotting of grave spaces and would link to the electronic burial record system in the future.

7. **ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD BOUNDARY WALL**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the quotation amounting to £249.00 for the removal of two conifer trees which were causing the boundary wall to distort close to a residential property. Members were informed of the tree contractor's advice that it would not be necessary to grind out the stumps of the removed trees; it was noted that the Council would need to obtain a quote however, to repair the wall in order that consideration may be given to such in the new Financial Year.

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2018/11/26 – 05

It was **proposed by Cllr Ives**, that the quotation for the removal of two conifer trees amounting to £249.00 would be accepted. Unanimous.

8. LYDNEY CEMETERY

Members were provided with a copy of the request which had been received for permission to exhume cremated remains of the late Arthur Saunders from the New Garden of Remembrance in order that they may be re-interred in the new Remembrance Walkway facility which had been recently created.

During discussion Members noted that the request had been made as the family felt that the existing plot did not provide sufficient room for their large family to place flowers. Furthermore, concern had been expressed that when it was time to perform the second interment it may not be possible to locate the exact same plot as used for the first interment, thereby meaning that the second set of cremated remains would cross others. Accordingly, the family felt that the ability to exhume cremated remains from the New Garden of Remembrance and then re-inter in the Remembrance Walkway would address all the concerns which they had raised.

Whilst Members expressed sympathy for the concerns which had been raised by the family, they highlighted that the Remembrance Walkway facility offered the same amount of space for the placement of flowers (i.e. one flower vase only). Concern was also voiced that if the request was granted, it would lead to many similar requests which may result in the New Garden of Remembrance becoming only part used, and the new Remembrance Walkway becoming full earlier than anticipated. Accordingly, it was **proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr White**, that the Council would not permit cremated remains to be exhumed from a cremated remains plot in Lydney Cemetery and then re-interred into a new/another cremated remains plot within the Cemetery. Unanimous.

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Harris advised that she has been contacted by a distressed member of the public who had visited their mother's grave on the anniversary of their Mother's birthday, and had found it to have been "trampled" and pots dislodged as a result of an interment which had been conducted nearby. The CEO was instructed to write to the Funeral Director who had conducted the interment and request that mourners respect surrounding grave plots.

Action by - the CEO

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of today's meeting were duly approved and Chairman, Cllr Ives, signed minutes as a true record.

11. MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 28 January 2019 at 6.30 pm, unless there was insufficient business for the Committee to discuss.

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm.

Chairman

Date ¹⁴ 26 November 2018