

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/05/26 – 01

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 6.32 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Harris (Chairman), H Ives, C Legg, B Pearman, D Pugh and S Rudge (late arrival)

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Miss K Hammond – Admin Assistant (AA)

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. **CO-OPTION**

Members were asked to consider/approve the co-option (for that of a four year term) of; Mr Blatchly (Philip Blatchly & Son Funeral Directors) and Mr Kennerley (Gordon Blake Funeral Directors).

It was **proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Ives** that Mr Blatchly and Mr Kennerley, in their absence, be co-opted onto the Burial Committee for the four year term. **Unanimous.**

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

It was **proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Pugh** that the appointment of Vice Chair be deferred until Cllr Rudge was present. Unanimous.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Berryman.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approval of the minutes of the Burial Committee meeting held on 23 March 2015 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Pearman.** Vote carried with three abstentions.

6. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

7. **INTERMENT FORMS**

Prior to the meeting members were provided with a copy of the Interment forms which had been issued to all local funeral directors in line with Council's prior instruction.

The CEO reminded members that the forms had been provided as a template by Mr Blatchly and reflected that of which were currently being used by other Burial Authorities. Noted.

Cllr Rudge arrived at this point.



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ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

At this point **Cllr Harris proposed** that Agenda Item 2 – Appointment of Vice Chair be brought forward for consideration. Unanimous.

Cllr Ives proposed, seconded by Cllr Harris that Cllr Rudge be elected as Vice Chair to the Burial Committee. Unanimous.

8. MAINTENANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Prior to the meeting members were provided with a copy of the letter addressed to the Clerk of Aylburton Parish Council last year in regard to the contribution towards the maintenance of Lydney Cemetery.

Members were asked to consider/approve the maintenance charge for 2015/16 to be levied to Aylburton Parish Council; effective as of 1 April 2015. The proposed total of £220.00 included a suggested 10% increase on that of last year's maintenance charge.

In response to a question raised by Cllr Ives the CEO advised that the 10% increase was deemed necessary due to the increase in cost levied to the Council by the various memorial suppliers and the rising maintenance costs.

It was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that members approve the maintenance charge for 2015/16 of £220.00 to be levied to Aylburton Parish Council. Unanimous.

9. ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCH YARD

Members were asked to note that the Purchase Order had been issued in respect to the churchyard wall repair work at St Mary's. It was anticipated that the work would be completed June/July. Noted.

10. ADDITIONAL BURIAL PROVISION

Unfortunately due to Cllr Berryman's absence it was not possible to report further on additional burial provision.

Members agreed that the matter would be deferred until the next meeting.

11. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Pearman commended the Town Council staff on their professionalism during the recent controversy over the removal of items in the Cemetery.

Cllr Pugh advised that he had been approached by a few members of the public in regard to the removal of items in the Cemetery however he felt that once he had explained to them that contrary to misleading media reports, graves had not been stripped and in order to maintain the respectful tranquillity of the Cemetery, the Council had merely enforced the long-standing Cemetery policy, they were more understanding.

The CEO advised that she had been in contact with a spokesperson who was representing a group of families who wished to express their own views on the Cemetery policy relating to personal adornments. The CEO further advised that an informal meeting with the families concerned would be arranged to coincide with member's availability.



Action by – the CEO

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12. **MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 27 July 2015 at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 6.47 pm.

Chairman *btains*

Date *27.7.15*