

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2014/07/28 – 05

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 28 July 2014 at 6.31 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C Harris (Chairman), V Hobman, B Pearman, S Rudge and B Thomas

One member of the public  
Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

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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 Cllrs Berryman and Matthews

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approval of the minutes of the Burial Committee meeting held on 27 May 2014 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Hobman, seconded by Cllr Pearman.**  
Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

No requests to speak were received.

5. **LYDNEY CEMETERY**

**Garden B, New Garden of Remembrance**

Members noted that formal notices had been placed on the Cemetery noticeboard and also on Garden B advising the public to remove any memorabilia as work to lay a weed suppressing membrane and layer of slate would commence in August 2014.

**32 Vault Sanctum Panorama**

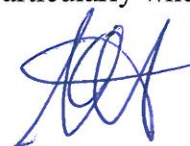
Members were asked to consider if they wished to gain prices/quotes in order to erect a moulding/sculpture on top of the new vault. Whilst opinion was divided regarding the suitability of installing such an item it was unanimously agreed that a provision of £5,000 would be included in the Committee's 2015-2016 budget for said financial year.

**Action by – the CEO**

6. **GREEN BURIAL SITE**

Members noted that a further meeting had taken place between representatives of Lydney Town Council and Lydney Park Estate to discuss issues relating to the proposed agreement to lease Millennium Wood. Members were provided with a copy of the Estate's written response to questions posed at the meeting.

Cllr Harris advised that a site meeting had been conducted earlier in the day by herself, Cllr Rudge, the CEO and the EO to view the area. As a result of the site meeting Cllr Harris voiced concern over the Council's ability to use the area, particularly when considering the



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advice which obtained from Forest of Dean District Council re the use of land. Members were informed that the terrain was quite rough and likely to require improvement; no adequate area was provided for parking vehicles; that the Council would be required to obtain Full Planning consent for the use of the land (including consideration towards parking provision, flood assessment, visual impact assessment, biodiversity). Concern was also raised over the financial implications that the aforementioned would place on the Council and attention was drawn to the fact that the only way that the Council would be able to extract itself from the proposed 999 year lease would be at the Estate's discretion.

During discussion it was noted that the area currently received one cut per year, the cost of which was invoiced to Aylburton Parish Council and that both the CEO and the EO did not feel that the land was suitable for the Council's purposes. It was **proposed by Cllr Harris** that the Council would decline the offer of the land. Unanimous.

Consideration was then given to the provision of future burial space and it was **proposed by Cllr Pearman, seconded by Cllr Hobman**, that provision of £5,000 would be included in the Committee's 2015-2016 budget in respect of accumulating a fund to provide a new burial site locally. Unanimous.

**Action by – the CEO**

7. **NALC BRIEFING SHEET**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the NALC Briefing note (Closed Churchyards and Disused Burial Grounds), the contents of which were noted.

8. **CEMETERY TREE**

Members were informed that a complaint had been received regarding the canopy of Cemetery trees which was encroaching onto Church Road and striking double decker buses. The CEO advised that Richard Cole Contractors had kindly agreed to flail back the canopy free of charge, but had informed the CEO of the necessity to cut back the trees (utilising a traffic management system and a contractor qualified to work on the Highway) in the Autumn. Noted.

9. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Rudge suggested that the Committee may wish to approach a local Funeral Director to ascertain if they would be interested in becoming a co-opted member. It was agreed that the CEO would write to Mr P Blatchly (Philip Blatchly & Son) and Mr M Kennerly (Gordon Blake Funeral Directors) to ascertain their interest.

**Action by – the CEO**

Cllr Harris advised that she still received pleasing comments on the maintenance of the Cemetery.

10. **MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 29 September 2014 at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 6.52 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....