

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/11/23 – 09

MINUTES OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 23 November 2015 at 6.29 pm.

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

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer

Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer

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**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approval of the minutes of the Burial Committee meeting held on 28 September 2015 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Legg.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

5. **ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCH YARD**

Members noted that a section of the wall had collapsed behind a row of trees at the top section of the Churchyard and that the collapsed stones were leaning against a neighbour's wooden shed. Accordingly, the neighbour had requested that the Council remove the weight of the stones from his shed as soon as possible.

Members were provided with a copy of the quotation which had been received for the removal of the stones and the repair of the wall, at a cost of £2,360.00. Members were reminded that the Council had a legal Duty to maintain the Closed Churchyard in a decent and Christian condition. It was **proposed by Cllr Harris** that the work would be undertaken. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

During discussion it was noted that the Council may need to rectify any damage which may have been caused to the neighbouring wooden shed.

6. **LYDNEY CEMETERY**

Members noted that despite every effort being made to contact the Registered Deed of Grant holder for plot 1579, Section K in Lydney Cemetery, it had not been possible to contact them to advise them of the need to repair the headstone which had become loose. The CEO advised that M E Damsell had agreed to repair the headstone free of charge.

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/11/23 - 10

7. **BURIAL POLICY**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the Cemetery Regulations which had been amended in line with the resolution made at the last meeting regarding Employee Death in Service. Noted.

8. **ADDITIONAL BURIAL PROVISION**

Cllr Berryman advised that no progress had been made with this matter.

During discussion the CEO advised that during a recent visit to the Cemetery she and the EO had identified a number of areas which will be utilised for burial spaces. Whilst it had had not been possible to produce a plan of the additional spaces for the meeting, the CEO advised a plan would be tabled at the next meeting for Members' information.

9. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Ives requested an agenda item for the next meeting to enable Members to consider removing the restriction regarding "non-residency of the Parish after 12 months" in order that it may be replaced with a "provision for former residents to make an application for burial which would be considered by the Committee". Cllr Pearman requested that the CEO make enquiries with neighbouring Councils to establish their regulations in such circumstances.

Action by – the CEO

10. **MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Burial Committee would take place on Monday 18 January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Chairman



Date 29/3/2016