Minutes of a Meeting of the

Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group

held at Thornton Cemetery

on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 12:00 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R. D. Gray)

Councillors: M. P. Rickard (Chairman)

T. J. Davies W. D. Elliott BA QTS Miss K. Gray Mrs. L. E. Turner

Mr. P. Johnson, Cemetery Supervisor, was also in attendance.

Councillor T. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest and did not take part in the voting on any of the Agenda items discussed at this afternoon’s meeting.

263. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk advised that the Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard, had been unavoidably delayed.

RESOLVED THAT, in the absence of the

Chairman, the Chair be taken by the Mayor,

Councillor C. A. Sharp.

264. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. H. Miles and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell.

265. MAYOR’S MEETING WITH A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REQUESTING A BENCH:

The Chairman arrived during the discussion of this issue.

The Mayor referred to a request by a gentleman who had written on behalf of his foster brother for permission to place a bench near to his wife’s grave in “M” Section.

The Mayor had met with the gentleman at the Cemetery and informed him that in his opinion he could not see any reason why the bench could not be sited at this location. The Mayor had told the gentleman that it was not his decision and would have to be decided by the Council.

Members felt that it would be unfair to other bereaved families who had approached the Cemetery Supervisor requesting a bench to be told of the Council’s decision not to allow any more benches in “L” and “M” Sections until further notice.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) the allocation of benches at the Cemetery is to

be reviewed after six months, when a

long-term strategy will be established;

(ii) the Clerk is to prepare an information sheet

explaining the Council’s policy regarding benches

at the Cemetery;

(iii) at the bottom of the information sheet there will

be a Name and Address section to be completed

by anyone wishing to have a bench at the Cemetery,

with the request that it be handed in to the Cemetery Supervisor or the Town Council Office.

266. RENAMING OF STILLBORN SECTION:

The Chairman said that there had been a great deal of interest from members of the public regarding the renaming of this Section.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT that the

Stillborn Section be renamed the “Forget-Me-Not

Baby Garden”.

The Chairman said that the Cemetery Staff would be carrying out work on this Section as soon as it could be fitted in to their work programme.

267. CEMETERY TOILETS:

Members discussed the future use for the toilet block and the possibility of adapting the building for storage.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT a feasibility

study be carried out as to the future use

of the toilet block.

268. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

The Chairman referred to the improvements that have been carried out at the Cemetery. He said that there is more work that needs to be undertaken in planned phases.

(a) Area behind the Chapel

The Chairman drew Members’ attention to the area behind the Chapel in between “C” and “D” Sections.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT when tarmacking

takes place at the Cemetery, this area should

be made a priority.

(b) Boundary Wall

The Chairman referred to his concerns regarding the condition of the boundary wall.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) the Clerk and Cemetery Supervisor are to

investigate how other Cemeteries encompass

their boundaries;

(ii) a programme of works is to be established for

consideration in the 2019/20 Precept.

(c) CCTV

The Chairman referred to a recent meeting he, the Mayor and Clerk had held with recently bereaved parents. The parents had advised that they were trying to raise funds for the installation of CCTV at the Cemetery via the Internet. The parents had been informed that this had not been authorised by the Council and although there was much sympathy for the parents they were asked to immediately terminate their fundraising efforts.

Members then discussed the six-month review of whether to install CCTV in the Cemetery. Members were mindful of the bereaved families visiting the Cemetery who would find CCTV intrusive.

The Clerk said that she had only received one complaint of items missing from a grave during this review period.

The Clerk advised that she had been informed that the Dyfed-Powys Police had recommended that anyone worrying about items being taken from their loved ones’ graves should install a camera as long as the camera did not encroach upon neighbouring graves.

The Cemetery Supervisor raised his concerns regarding the dumping of rubbish in the Cemetery after the implementation of Pembrokeshire County Council’s new waste disposal policy.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) a CCTV system should not be installed at the

Cemetery at this time, but the situation will

continue to be monitored;

(ii) the Cemetery Supervisor will monitor fly-tipping

at the Cemetery.

269. MEMORY TREE:

The Clerk advised that sixty hearts had been sold over the Christmas period with forty remaining. A profit of £102 has been made.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) the hearts be placed on the tree at Easter

and Christmas;

(ii) and removed from the tree after a specified

time;

(iii) the public are to be informed that, if they

wish to collect their purchased hearts, they will

be available for collection at the Town Hall

at the end of April each year;

(iv) those hearts not collected are to be recycled

if possible;

(v) the Clerk is to be authorised to purchase more

hearts as and when necessary.

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