Minutes of a Meeting of the

Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group

 held at Thornton Cemetery

on Wednesday, 26th June, 2019 at 10:00 am

PRESENT

Councillor T. J. Davies (Mayor)

Councillor Miss K. F. Gray (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor: C. A. Sharp Mrs Y. G. Southwell

 Mrs L. E. Turner

Mrs M. L. Galliford, Town Clerk

44. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W. D. Elliott BA QTS, R. D. Gray, A. H. Miles, M. P. Rickard and R. Williams.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

 The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, declared a personal interest as he is employed by a Funeral Director on a part time basis.

46. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

 The Clerk advised that it was normal policy for the Chairman of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group to be either the Mayor or the Chair of the Public Works and Planning Committee. The Chair of the Public Works and Planning Committee, Councillor R. Williams, had confirmed that because of other commitments he would not be able to under the role of Chair but would be pleased if the Vice Chairman, Councillor C. A. Sharp, took on the role of Chairman of this Group.

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor C. A. Sharp be

 appointed as Chair of the Cemetery Maintenance

 and Land Acquisition Group.

47. INSPECTION OF THE CEMETERY:

 (a) Cemetery Chapel

 Members were informed that the Cemetery Staff were not opening the Chapel doors as they were concerned that swallows would try and nest in the building. It was agreed that it was important that people could sit and reflect in the Chapel and it was RECOMMENDED THAT suitable curtains be purchased to hang on the outside of the Chapel to deter the birds and enable the Chapel to be open to the public once again.

(b) Large Weeds on Graves

The Mayor drew Members’ attention to the white and pink weeds growing on the older, untended graves. He said that the staff were presently very busy attending to other duties and that he and the Clerk would make arrangements to have these weeds removed.

(c) Levelling of Graves in J Section

 Members noted that some of the graves in J Section were in need of remedial work.

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT the Clerk contacts

 a suitable contractor to ask for a quotation for

 levelling the graves in this Section.

(d) Artefacts on Benches and Graves

 Members observed that some graves in L and M Sections had an excessive number of memorial pots and artefacts on them which made it impossible for the Cemetery Staff to carry out their duties and maintain the lawned sections.

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT the following be

 added to the Cemetery Booklet which is distributed

 when the deed is issued.

 (i) only one memorial pot will be allowed on a grave

 unless the grave is maintained by the family;

 (ii) failure to comply will result in the additional memorial

 pot(s) and/or artefacts being removed by the Cemetery Staff.

(e) Schedule of Works

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT discussion on an

 schedule of works for the Cemetery Staff

 be added to the next Agenda.

48. TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR BENCHES AT THE CEMETERY:

 In 2017 the Milford Haven Town Council agreed not to allow any more benches in the new Sections of the Cemetery. Last year it was agreed to review the allocation of benches and an Information Sheet was produced which requested that any person wishing a bench had to complete a tear off slip to be handed to the Cemetery Supervisor or the Town Council Office.

Four requests for benches had been received. One person had decided to erect a bench at another location since submitting his request.

Members discussed the remaining requests for three benches and the location where the families wanted them sited. Following an examination of the areas it was agreed that it would be possible to grant permission for the erection of the three benches.

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

 (i) permission be granted for the three applicants to

 erect benches at the Cemetery;

 (ii) the applicants be advised that the benches must

 be fixed on a base installed by a Monumental

 Mason;

 (iii) the benches must be environmentally friendly –

 they are to be made of maintenance free

 recycled plastic - and they must be in situ by

 no later than 31st December, 2019;

 (iv) the applicants are to be told that they are not

 permitted to display any artefacts on the benches;

 if they do so, these will be removed;

 (v) no more benches are to be erected in the

 Cemetery;

 (vi) families are to be told that they can either sponsor

 the planting of a tree or shrub in memory of a loved

 one at a suitable location in the Cemetery;

 (vii) families will be able to have a memorial plaque in

 front of the tree or shrub;

 (viii) families will be reminded of the option to place a

 plaque in the Chapel.

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