Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group

held at the Milford Haven Cemetery

on Tuesday 29th June, 2021 at 11:30 am

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

 Councillors: C. A. Sharp (Chairman)

 T. J. Davies

 W. D. Elliott BA QTS

 Mr. P. Johnson, Cemetery Supervisor

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Miss F. K. Galliford, Secretary

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39. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. D. Gray, M. P. Rickard, Mrs Y. G. Southwell and R. Williams.

40. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor C. A. Sharp be

 appointed as Chairman of the Cemetery Maintenance

 and Land Acquisition Group for the municipal year

 2021/2022.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, declared a personal interest as he works for a local Funeral Director. He stated that he has dispensation from the Monitoring Officer to speak at the Meeting but not vote.

42. UPDATE FROM CEMETERY SUPERVISOR

 Members considered a report from the Cemetery Supervisor, Mr. P. Johnson, detailing the work carried out at the Cemetery for May and June 2021.

 The Chairman, Councillor C. A. Sharp, complimented Mr. Johnson and the Town Clerk, Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, on putting the report together.

 The Cemetery Supervisor advised that he had recently met with the Commonwealth War Graves Commissioner and that this was a productive meeting.

 A Member asked the Cemetery Supervisor for clarification regarding the wearing of masks at funerals during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Member advised that he and his workplace colleagues always wear masks when they are on location. The Cemetery Supervisor said that he wears a protective facial shield as he experiences difficulties with masks and the facial shield is much more convenient for him.

 The Cemetery Supervisor then raised an issue regarding funerals that were taking place later in the day. Mourners at a number of these funerals were taking a while to disperse, causing considerable delay in the Cemetery staff’s grave filling duties.

 Discussion followed, and Members were all mindful of the sensitivity of such a situation.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the accompanying

 funeral paperwork be amended to politely

 request that mourners be given twenty minutes

 before dispersing to give the Cemetery staff

 the time needed for them to fill in the grave.

43. VERBAL UPDATE ON WALL

 The Town Clerk updated Members of the ongoing situation with the Cemetery Wall, which is in need of repair.

 The Clerk advised that she was making frequent contact with a local company.

 The Chairman added that he and the Cemetery Supervisor had also met with a number of local companies with varying success.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the Clerk and the Chairman will

 continue to pursue this matter.

44. POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION

 The Chairman congratulated the Clerk on her diligent work relating to this issue.

 Discussion followed and it was RECOMMENDED THAT:

 (i) the Town Clerk and Chairman continue

 to investigate the possible land acquisition at

 the Cemetery;

 (ii) a meeting regarding this issue take place with

 all relevant authorities – either electronically

 or in person.

45. demolition of toilet block and fitting of gas tank

 Members considered a report relating to the Demolition of the Toilet Block and Fitting of the Gas Tank at the Cemetery.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the report be received.

46. PROBATION SERVICE USERS AT THORNTON CEMETERY

 Members considered a report regarding the presence of several Probation Service users at the Cemetery. The Probation Service users have since commenced work at the Cemetery and met with a positive response from the Cemetery Supervisor.

 Members spoke warmly about this development.

 A Member asked whether there was potential for a “Good News” story. Another Member fully understood those sentiments but explained that this would not be possible because of the nature of the work.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the report be received.

47. QUOTATIONS FOR WORK AT CEMETERY

 (a) Quotes for Heating at Cemetery House

 The Town Clerk apprised Members of a couple of quotes she had received regarding the installation of heating at Cemetery House.

 A Member spoke of the importance of this matter, stressing the Council’s Duty of Care to its staff.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the Town Clerk is to proceed with the best value quote.

 (b) Quote from Proseal on Roof Repair Work

 Members considered the quote and information from Proseal.

 RECOMMENDED THAT the Town Clerk is to obtain a quote

 from another organisation.

 (c) Quote for Chapel Door

 Members considered a comprehensive quote totalling £322.45 for work to commence on the Chapel Door.

 RECOMMENDED THAT:

 (i) the Town Clerk is to contact this company to accept this quote;

 (ii) the Town Clerk and Chairman are to be given plenary powers to progress the work required on the glass in the door.

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