

# MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group  
held at Cemetery Lodge, Thornton Cemetery, Milford Haven  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 11:00am

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## PRESENT

Councillors: C. A. Sharp (Chairman)

Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey  
Mrs Y. G. Southwell

Miss K. F. Gray

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

P. A. Johnson, Cemetery Supervisor

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### 251. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS (work commitments) and Councillor D. Abbott (ill health). Apologies for absence were not received from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens.

### 252. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were expressed.

### 253. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023:

It was **RESOLVED THAT:** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be accepted as a true record.

### 254. MATTERS ARISING:

#### Minute No. 206 – ii. Cemetery Wall

The Cemetery Wall renewal is due to begin during January 2024. The Town Clerk is to contact the builder for a possible starting date of the work.

### 255. UPDATE ON LAND PURCHASE:

# MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## 256. ELECTRICITY TO CEMETERY CHAPEL:

The Chair of the Group, Councillor C. A. Sharp, explained how important it is to have electricity to the Chapel now that it has been renovated. Some warmth in the winter months would keep the building in good condition. The Chapel could also be used for services and meetings.

It was recommended that the cost of the electric supply to the chapel - £2,644 - would come out of reserves.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:** the electricity supply to the Chapel be agreed. The cost of the work - £2,644 - would come from Town Council reserves.

## 257. UPDATE ON CEMETERY CONDITION:

The Cemetery Supervisor, Mr P. Johnson, gave an update on the condition of the soil and debris on the remaining parcel of land at the cemetery.

Some large boulders have recently been dug up, giving concern over clearing the last of the current land. It was agreed that an area would be prepared for future burials with any debris removed.

The current sub-contractor is due to retire at the end of January 2024. He will be asked to carry out the clearing work before he retires if possible. There is concern that the work would exceed the cemetery budget.

The Chair of the group gave authority to the Supervisor to continue with any work required. The Town Clerk will use other cemetery budgets where necessary.

A Councillor stated that the Cemetery would need an additional worker going forward. That matter cannot be considered in the new financial year as the precept has already been agreed. However, it should be an item for the financial year 2025/2026. It was suggested that enquiries are made to take on an apprentice. Councillor Miss K. F. Gray offered to contact the Job Centre to make enquiries on apprenticeships.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- an area of the remaining cemetery land be cleared and prepared for burials. Authority from the Cemetery Group Chair has been given to carry out any ground preparation work required and to use other cemetery budgets where necessary to cover the additional cost;

## MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

- Councillor Miss K. F. Gray is to contact the Job Centre to investigate the possibility of an apprentice for the cemetery;
  - for the Budget 2025/2026 a consideration should be made for an extra employee as a cemetery groundworker.
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