

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020, AT 7PM VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING PLATFORM

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## Committee Members present:

Councillors B Collier (Chairman), A Cooper, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, H Pickering, B Saunders

## Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner, Assistant Clerk – Ms C Jenkins and Councillor Mrs A Clarey

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### **11/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **12/20 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA**

Nothing to declare. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

### **13/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

None present.

### **14/20 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Nothing to report.

### **15/20 'EMERGENCY' PROVISION OF NEW GARDEN OF REST AREA IN CEMETERY**

The current Coronavirus pandemic has seen an increase in requests for ashes interments at our cemetery. No pre-purchase rights of burial plots have been sold at this time, only interments when required. Whilst working as part of the Central Bedfordshire Coordinated Burial Group during the pandemic period, it is calculated that numbers of ashes interments will only increase. As at end of August, our ashes interment rate is already above our annual average for this period in the year – incl. ashes interred or booked to be interred by end of the month. At this time, our cemetery has x12 new ashes (not re-opener) plots available. Note: no progress has been made to date on the tender for refurbishing the beacon garden of rest area.

Members considered a proposal to provide a new area for ashes interments. Two areas were considered, together with estimated budget for labour and materials – a triangular area in the unused Beacon section, which will square the area off for burials in the future, and a section of the piece of land between the burning area and the mast.

A previously discussed area between the current beacon garden of rest and mast is now not an option, as this has been highlighted as the compound area

required for contractors working on the refurbishment of the garden of rest. Both option locations are on level ground, and it is therefore suggested that the new area is of a similar simple layout as the lower Garden of Rest, with approx. 296 to 375 double depth ashes plots created, depending on the option chosen.

**RESOLVED** that the triangular area of the unused Beacon section is used to create a new Garden of Rest area, similar to the style and layout of the lower Garden of Rest. Budget as per report given. The Clerk is given delegated powers to have this work undertaken, within the increased budget agreed.

**16/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY**

Contact details were provided for two building contractors who may be interested in tendering for the refurbishment of the Garden of Rest.

A member advised on that on a visit to the cemetery earlier in the day, he had noted that the two benches in the turning head opposite the Diana Memorial Garden have been used as a meeting and drinking point, and there were bags of cans tied up ready for collection. The Handyman will be asked to clear these, and to monitor the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.19pm

**MINUTES APPROVED (date):**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**