

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cemetery Committee held at Mold Cemetery, Alexandra Road on Monday 1st November, 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors: Chris Bithell (Chair), Sarah Taylor (Mayor), Haydn Jones, (Deputy Mayor), Teresa Carberry, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry
Officers: Ian Jones, Town Clerk and Finance Officer

ABSENT: Councillors Geoff Matthias and Gareth Williams.

As the Chair and Mayor were not present at the commencement of the meeting Councillor Haydn Jones was asked to take the Chair.

Councillor Jones in the Chair.

9. APOLOGIES

Arfon Williams-Cooke, Cemetery Superintendent.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12th July, 2021 be received and approved as a correct record.

It was noted that the Tree survey work referred to in Minute 5 had been delayed awaiting two further quotations. These however had not proved satisfactory and therefore in the interests of safety to the houses in Lon yr Orsaf the Town Clerk had instructed Woodworks to carry out the necessary maintenance.

Councillor Sarah Taylor joined the meeting at 5.10pm.

12. REPLACE FENCING AND 5M STRIP FOR SOIL DEPOSIT

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that at its last meeting it had approved in principle a proposal to introduce a new 5M strip of land to incrementally take contaminated waste spoil as and when it was displaced as a result of digging new graves. The proposal also involved removal of the current dilapidated chain link fence, new hedging to match existing hedges, retention of existing trees and the planting of four new trees, a new timber post and mesh fence with kick boards or other options on fencing which would be obscured to a degree by the new hedging.

The reason for the request was the limited space to deposit spoil, which could not be taken off site except by waste contamination specialists - which was extremely costly.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be approved and it be placed within the budget for funding.

13. REPORT OF THE CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town Clerk gave an update from the Cemetery Superintendent advised the Committee of the number of burials and activities since the last meeting viz:- New graves 6 Re-openings 2, new Cremations 5 and Cremations in existing graves 9. Total 21. It was also noted that the extension to the cemetery was now eight years old and during that period 110 new graves have been opened.

It was noted that some maintenance of machinery would be carried out in-house during the winter months. was up to date.

It was suggested that the large conifer tree stump could be carved into an attractive shape. Members agreed that enquiries be made to see if this was possible.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted

Councillor Chris Bithell joined the meeting at 5.20pm.

14. ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE PROPOSAL

The Committee received an update from the Sub-Group on the proposal to create a cycle route through from Tyddyn Street Church to Gas Lane via the Cemetery Field.

The second sub group meeting took place on 13 October 2021 with officers from FCC Streetscene and Public Rights of Way. A cycle way was planned across Mold, which will be constructed incrementally as Welsh Government's Active Travel funding allowed. The first stage was planned for Tyddyn Street URC Church to Gas Lane, via the Cemetery Field.

It was proposed that the path would be 1M from the existing hedge and would be 3m wide. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with Rob Nursaw at Flintshire Streetscene and there would be no maintenance problems with regard to cutting back the hedge as a result of the works.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be approved subject to

(i) Could FCC confirm the ongoing maintenance of the path?

(ii) would the dead tree be removed?

(iii) would the old path be closed off once the new path is open?

(iv) the Town council to be kept informed of the time line for commencement and ongoing works and

(v) whilst funerals were taking place would any excessive noise cease for their duration.

15. BUDGET 2022/2023

The Committee considered the budget pressures for 2022/23, including Cemetery Fees for 2022 which would be recommended to the Budget Sub Group and Full Council for approval and copies of relevant documents were presented by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk highlighted the probable spend for 2021/22 which was shown on the spreadsheet. The Clerk advised on areas of work and spends in recent budgets. It was suggested to the Committee that a further £5,000 be added to carry out works highlighted above.

The Town Clerk suggested that salaries would be higher as there was an offer of 1.75% already on the table for the current year and maybe the Budget Sub-Group could review all salary projections better in a month's time. In any case a deficit could be offset by the pension excess.

The Committee considered burial fees and compared Flintshire County Council's existing fees from October 2021 with the Town Council's fees. It was agreed that now was not the best time to increase any fees, especially given that the Town Council's fees were still generally slightly above that of the County's. However, there was some discrepancies with extra costings which could be realigned with Flintshire County Council's existing fees.

RESOLVED: that the following be recommended to the Budget group: -

- a) The proposed expenditure budget of £87,710;
- b) The burial fees for 2022/23 remain the same, except for the following changes:-
 - Right to erect headstone up £1 to £151
 - Right to erect tablet up £8 (residents) to £78 down £2 (non residents) to £78
 - Additional inscription up £2 (residents) to £37 down £3 (non residents) to £78
 - Saturday burial up £34 to £364 (residents) up £68 to £728 (non residents)

Meeting ended at 6.05pm

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

CEMETERY COMMITTEE	DATE: 01/11//2021
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS

WORD/MINUTES/CEMETERY/CEMETERY

Chairman's signature: Date: