

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council Cemetery Committee held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 20th December 2005.

PRESENT: Councillors: Jack Laing, Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Ray Dodd, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, and Joyce Jones with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Cemetery Superintendent.

10. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd June 2005 be received and approved as a correct record.

11. MATTERS ARISING

11.1 Item 4.4 Noticeboards – The Clerk and Finance Officer advised this matter had not been addressed and that he would report to the next meeting.

12. CEMETERY EXTENSION

The Clerk and Finance Officer advised the Committee Katrina Hawkins, Smith Grant had intended to be present at the meeting but that due to illness she was unable to attend.

The Committee considered the correspondence from Ms Hawkins and noted the details of land availability circulated by the Clerk and Finance Officer at the meeting.

The Clerk and Finance Officer advised that the area of land in the sports field that could be used for burials is equivalent to sections N and T (part only) in the lower cemetery. This would allow for some 400 plots providing burial facilities for 12 –16 years based upon an average of 24 new plots required each year. It was confirmed that this area would only give sufficient clearance within the ground for two interments in each plot.

In light of the limited availability of land for burial use and the possibility that such use would prevent any alternative use of the remaining parcel of land within the sports field, the Committee felt that it would be appropriate to discuss with the County Council the use of the existing play area in Gas Lane for burial purposes. This would allow for a possible exchange of land with the sports field transferring to the County Council. It was recognised that many issues would still require resolution but it was felt that this matter should be discussed initially before any further surveys are undertaken.

Resolved: It was resolved that arrangements be made to discuss this matter with Flintshire County Council at the earliest possible opportunity.

13. REPORT OF THE CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

The Committee received reports from the Cemetery Superintendent on the following items:

13.1 The Superintendent reported that there had, since the last meeting, been 39 interments, with 12 new graves being required, 17 graves being reopened and 10 cremations, one of which required a new cremation plot. He advised that the total number of burials in the year amounted to 73 and that over the period of the past 10 years, 240 new plots had been required. The Superintendent indicated that there remained 70 – 75 plots within the lower Cemetery and that an additional 12 – 18 plots could be identified elsewhere. In addition, plots for cremations could be identified in a number of locations within the Cemetery.

Members made reference to the possibility of reusing part of the older sections of the Cemetery and it was agreed that the Clerk and Finance Officer should seek further information on this matter.

13.2 The Superintendent advised that grass cutting had continued until the previous week. He advised that arrangements would now be made for the servicing of the mowers prior to cutting recommencing.

13.3 Reference was made to the need for the trimming of the conifer trees fronting Gas Lane. The Clerk and Finance Officer advised that an estimate for the work in the sum of £120.00 had been received from Adrian Parker and it was agreed that this should be accepted.

13.4 The Superintendent advised the Committee that the noticeboard in the lower Cemetery was in need of repair and it was agreed that its replacement should be considered alongside that in the main car park. It was noted that this would be reconsidered at the next meeting.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted and the action outlined approved.

14. ADDITIONAL LABOUR

The Clerk and Finance Officer reported on the success of the arrangements for the provision of additional labour within the Cemetery.

The Committee was advised that Adrian Parker commenced work in early May and had worked for a continuous period of 18 weeks finishing at the end of August 2005. Members noted that Mr. Parker had assisted the Town Council with the hanging baskets and flower towers. The Clerk and Finance Officer advised of the desire to amend the arrangements in 2006 with an earlier start, a break during the summer and continuing until later in the year. This would be achieved within the same timescale as the current year namely 18 weeks. The Superintendent advised that during initial talks on this matter, Mr. Parker expressed a willingness to accommodate these alterations.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the suggested arrangements for the employment of the additional temporary labour in 2006 as detailed above.