

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council Cemetery Committee held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 6th July 2006.

PRESENT: Councillors: Jack Laing, Chris Bithell, Bryan Grew (Mayor) and Joyce Jones with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Cemetery Superintendent.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: Tony Cattermoul, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks,

1. CEMETERY EXTENSION

The Chairman welcomed Katrina Hawkins of Smith Grant LLP to the meeting and the Committee considered her previously circulated correspondence regarding the preliminary site investigation of the play area in Gas Lane.

Ms. Hawkins advised of the background and recent changes in the way, in particular, the Environment Agency (EA) had become more involved in the development of land for burial purposes. The guidance is constantly changing and until a number of new burial developments have been completed, a definitive approach and a comprehensive set of guidance notes will not be available. This therefore, requires a close liaison with the EA during the investigation and planning processes.

Ms. Hawkins advised of the extent of the investigative excavations and indicated that groundwater levels were similar to those in the existing cemetery. Depths of 3 metres had been reached and groundwater was not experienced, although in one trial hole dampness was seen. As a result it seemed that the play area could be suitable for burial purposes subject to other detailed investigations.

Further investigations, as detailed in the letter from Smith Grant LLP, were recommended and Ms. Hawkins explained the analysis and testing that would be undertaken.

Reference was made to the 'band of dark grey fill' that had been analysed and from which no concerns were raised.

The Committee felt that it would be appropriate to proceed to the detailed investigation as detailed in the correspondence. The Chairman then thanked Ms. Hawkins for her time and explanations.

Resolved: It was resolved to ask Smith Grant LLP to proceed with the further investigations necessary as outlined in previous correspondence.

2. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th January 2006 be received and approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Item 17.2 Mowers: The Superintendent advised that a new mower had been purchased and explained the arrangements for servicing of all equipment.

3.2 Item 17.3 Manhole Repairs: The Clerk advised that the repairs had been undertaken but that further damage had subsequently been experienced. He explained that advice had been sought from County Highways officers and arrangements had been made to fill the manhole, which was no longer needed, and that this work had been completed.

3.3 Item 20 Cemetery Extension: Reference was made to the request to formally identify the land at Gas Lane as an extension to the cemetery within the Unitary Development Plan currently being considered by the County Council. The Clerk advised of his conversation with the Planning Officer when it was explained that this approach was not necessary.

3.4 Item 21 Tree Surgery: The Clerk advised that the work to remove the trees and shrubs as approved, had been completed. He indicated that this would provide for an additional nine burial plots within the cemetery.

4. REPORT OF THE CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

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

4.1 The Superintendent reported that there had, since the last meeting, been 32 interments, with 14 new graves being required, eight graves being reopened, three new cremation plots and seven cremations in existing plots. This left approximately 55 plots remaining in section 'W'.

4.2 The Superintendent advised of the work being undertaken by Adrian Parker who has again been employed for a period during the summer months to undertake grass cutting and other maintenance tasks.

4.3 The Superintendent advised that arrangements had been made for Clwyd Multi Services to replace the garage/store door.

4.4 The Superintendent advised that the welds to the main gate had been repaired although it was noted that specialists may be needed to undertake permanent repairs.

4.5 The Superintendent advised that a bench had been donated and would be installed in the very near future. The base for the bench had been completed and the bench itself, of a similar design to the other donated benches, was being engraved. The donator, Mr. Malcolm Bruce, had also promised a couple of standard roses.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

5. MEMORIAL TABLET

The Committee considered the correspondence from Mr. Matthew Lovelock and the request for the siting of a marble tablet commemorating Private William Griffiths in the Cemetery. Reference was also made to its possible siting at Bailey Hill near to the Cenotaph.

Having considered the matter and the possible sites in detail, the Committee felt that it had nowhere suitable for the re-siting of this memorial.

However, Members advised that Mr. Griffiths was already remembered on the Cenotaph and on the memorial in St Mary's Parish Church. In addition, the Committee felt strongly that the tablet had been provided and erected by members of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in memory of William Griffiths and that it was a matter for the Church to identify a suitable place for its re-siting.

Resolved: It was resolved to advise Mr. Lovelock that the Town Council had nowhere suitable for the re-siting of the memorial.