

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee held at the Civic Offices of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil on Tuesday, 20th March 2018 commencing at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

M. Colbran, J. Thomas, D. Isaac and D. Chaplin

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

H. Boggis, (Mrs) A. Crimmings, A. S. Fox and G. Jones

Officers in Attendance

Ms. J. Lewis – Bereavement Services Manager

Mr. S. Preddy – Group Accountant, Community Services

Mrs. L. Coughlan – Solicitor

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor K. Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council).

18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests in matters pertaining to the agenda.

19 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee held on 12th December 2017.

REPORT OF THE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER

- 20** The Assistant Cemetery Manager provided Members with an overview of the recently agreed memorandum of understanding regarding the approach to adopt a fair and consistent approach Wales, to the fees charged by local Government for the burial and cremation fees of children up to the age of 18 years.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the Joint Committee formally adopts the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, with regard to a fair consistent approach

across Wales, to the fees charged by local Government for the burial and cremation of children up to the age of 18 years.

(2) That this be implemented from the 18th January 2018.

21 STATISTICS

The Assistant Cemetery Manager provided Members with Statistics and Performance figures relating to the operation of the Crematorium since the last meeting and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

22 CREMATION & SUPPLEMENTARY FEES AND CHARGES 2018-19

In the absence of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services, the Assistant Cemetery Manager presented the report setting out details of the proposed fees and charges for 2018/19.

It was proposed to apply an increase to cremation and all supplementary fees and charges by 2.95%. A comparison of existing and proposed fees was provided.

Members noted that it was not possible at present to ascertain the 2018-19 fee increases being proposed by other local authorities in Wales, however, the fee increases being proposed were considered to be reasonable and, if approved, would maintain a comparable position with other local authorities.

Members discussed the recommendation outlined in the report to implement a 12-month pilot scheme in respect of bereavement fees for armed forces veterans. Following discussions, Members agreed to defer the recommendation as members wished to discuss this with the Cabinet at Merthyr County Borough Council before a decision for the Joint Committee could be endorsed.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the Joint Committee approve the revised levels for cremation and all supplementary fees and charges.
- (2) That the implementation of a 12 month pilot scheme in respect of bereavement fees for armed forces veterans be deferred to the next meeting of the Joint Committee and following discussions with the Cabinet at Merthyr County Borough Council.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

23 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Members were asked to consider the proposed calendar of quarterly meetings for the Joint Committee for the 2018-19 municipal year.

Members noted that it was proposed to hold each of the meetings at the Civic Offices of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

A Member raised a query with Officers as to whether future meetings could take place at Llwydcoed Crematorium. In response, the Member was informed this would be reviewed in the future.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to agree the calendar of meetings for the 2018-19 municipal year.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

24 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR 2017-18 AND DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR 2018-19

The Group Accountant, Community Services presented the report, which provided Members with an update on the 2017/18 Budget Monitoring position and the Draft Revenue Estimates for 2018/19.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

(1) To note the 2017-18 Budget Monitoring position.

(2) To approve the draft Revenue Estimates for 2018-19.

25 OTHER BUSINESS

With the permission of the Chairman, a Member raised a query with Officers as to whether any further works would be carried out at Llwydcoed Crematorium with regard to the previous ancillary remedial works.

In response, the Member was informed that the work is considered complete, however, this would be addressed in the future.

Members asked would it be possible for a visit to be arranged for Members of the Committee to visit Llwydcoed Crematorium and the memorial garden. Following discussions, it was agreed that arrangements be made for Members of the Committee to visit the site sometime in the near future.

**D.ISAAC
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 14.16 p.m.