

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, 22 March 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

A.Chaplin, A.Jones (Chairman), D.Isaac and K.Morgan

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

H.Boggis, A.Crimmings, A.S.Fox and (Mrs) J.S.Ward

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection

Ms.J.Lewis – Bereavement Services Manager

Mr. S.Preddy – Group Accountant Community Services

Mr.R.De Benedictis – Leisure Operations Manager

Mrs.L.Coughlan – Solicitor

24 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor K.Morgan.

25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee held on 15 December 2015.

27 STATISTICS AND PERFORMANCE

The Bereavement Services Manager presented her report providing Statistics and Performance figures relating to the operation of the Crematorium since that last meeting and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED –**

(1) To note the information.

(2) To note that the Crematorium is now fully operational following recent works at the site and that further publicity be launched to ensure that funeral directors and public are made fully aware of the current situation.

28 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR 2015-16 AND DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR 2016-17

The Treasurer presented the report which provided Members with details of the projected final outturn for 2015-15 and the draft revenue estimates for 2016-17.

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

(1) To note the 2015-16 budget monitoring position.

(2) To approve the draft Revenue Estimates for 2016-17.

29 IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Leisure Operations Manager provided Members with an oral update on the work undertaken to replace the cremators and ancillary remedial works at the Llwydcoed Crematorium.

Members were informed that the work to replace the cremators was on target and in fact, a week ahead of schedule. The expected sign-off of the new cremators was 18th April 2016.

There had recently been an interruption to the gas supply to the facility but this had now been resolved and a new meter would be installed. There were ongoing discussions taking place on the merits of providing a cold storage unit as a contingency arrangement should such incidents arise in the future.

Overall good progress was being made and the project was on programme.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

30 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

31 CREMATION AND SUPPLEMENTARY FEES AND CHARGES 2016-17

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection presented the report setting out details of the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17.

It was proposed to apply an increase to cremation fees of 4.7% and an increase to burial and all other supplementary fees and charges of 11.2%. A comparison of existing and proposed fees was provided.

Members noted that it was not possible at present to ascertain the 2016-17 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.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that with effect from 1st April 2016, Cremation fees are increased by 4.7% (RPI + 3.5%) and that all other supplementary fees and charges are increased by 11.2% (RPI + 10%).

32 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ABATEMENT OF EMISSIONS TO ATMOSPHERE FROM LLWYDCOED AND GLYNTAFF CREMATORIA

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection presented the report outlining the legal requirements concerning the abatement of emissions to the atmosphere from the Crematorium and proposal to enter into an independent burden sharing arrangement between Llwydcoed and Glyntaff Crematoria to provide significant financial benefits for both facilities.

Following consideration of the report and the financial implications of the proposal, it was **RESOLVED –**

- (1)** To authorise the Service Director, Public Health & Protection to withdraw Llwydcoed and Glyntaff Crematoria from the CAMEO burden sharing scheme.
- (2)** To authorise the Service Director, Public Health & Protection to register an independent burden sharing scheme between Llwydcoed and Glyntaff Crematoria with CAMEO.

33 OTHER BUSINESS

With the permission of the Chairman, a Member raised a query with Officers as to whether there had been any reported incidents or accidents in the grounds of Llwydcoed Crematorium arising from ground conditions owing to the inclement weather experienced over the last few months. In response, the Member was informed that none had been reported to Bereavement Services. However, investigations were being made into future improvements to land drainage and the condition of pathways at the site.

**A.JONES
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 3.05 p.m.