

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor B Brooks (Chairperson) plus Councillors O Cash, P Drake, J Evans, K Evans, H C Hamilton, A D Hampton, N P Hodges, S A Hodges, K Kuhnell (Town Mayor ex-officio), K Lewis, B I Shaw and E T Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Cliff Lewis – Deputy Executive Officer
Angie Norman - Administration

A148. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

A149. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

A150. **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2010**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Amenities Committee's meeting on 27 September 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

A151. **PIONEER HALL**

a. **Comparison of Bookings (1 April 2009 – October 2010)**

RESOLVED:

1. that the comparisons of bookings be produced in an Excel format in future;
2. that the report be received and noted.

b. **Proposed Fees and Charges for 2011/12**

RESOLVED:

1. that no increase be made on the hire costs for the Pioneer Hall in the 2011/12 financial year;
2. that the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee on 17 January 2011 be advised that this Committee agreed not to increase the hire charges for the Pioneer Hall for the 2011/12 financial year;

3. that an press release be prepared and submitted to the local press advising the public that the Council have decided not to increase the hire charges for the Pioneer Hall in the 2011/12 financial year.

A152.

Cemeteries

a. **Comparison of Burials**

Members were advised that Lyndsey Ellis of Park Funerals had donated a stereo system for use at the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

The Deputy Executive Officer advised that he had recently been in discussions with Cruse Bereavement Care with regard to them using the Chapel for the purpose of holding bereavement counselling sessions. He advised that it had been agreed that they would use the chapel on the first and third Monday of each month starting on 6 December 2010 and 20 December respectively. He also informed the Committee that he had been contacted by an organisation called "Open Doors" as a result of the open day in the chapel in September. They had written asking whether the Council would be interested in registering the chapel as a participating site in the Open Doors Scheme, which is supported by Cadw, the Welsh Assembly's Government's historic environment service and organised by the Civic Trust for Wales. Participation in Open Doors, gives local people free access to new and exciting aspects of the built heritage, as well as encouraging visitors to sites all over Wales.

The Committee were also advised that the Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery were planning to hold a candle lighting on Sunday, 19 December 2010 at 9.00 am – 4.00 pm.

The Chair asked whether the chapel had been advertised on the Council's website, as previously discussed. The Deputy Executive Officer advised that he would investigate this matter and the Chair stated that she wished this to be actioned as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be received and noted.

b. **Proposed Fees and Charges 2011/12**

RESOLVED:

1. that the fees and charges for services provided at the Merthyr Dyfan and Porthkerry Cemeteries be increased by 5% for the 2011/12 financial year;

2. that the increase of 5% be recommended to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee on 17 January 2011 for acceptance for the financial year 2011/12;
3. that the Vale of Glamorgan Council be advised of the proposed 5% increase in fees for Porthkerry Cemetery for the 2011/12 financial year.

A153. **TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIALS (477-487)**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Standing Order 68, authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deed Transfers numbered 477-487 inclusive, granting exclusive right of burial to those named on each transfer.

A154. **GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIALS (13073-13080)**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Standing Order 68, authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deeds numbered 13073-13080 inclusive, granting the exclusive right of burial to those named on each transfer.

A155. **UPDATE REPORTS ON BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS IMPROVEMENTS**

Architects Report

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

A156. **BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENTS (OCTOBER 2010)**

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

A157. **DRAFT AMENITIES COMMITTEE ESTIMATES 2011/12**

The Committee was requested to give consideration to draft estimates for the 2011/12 financial year. The Deputy Executive Officer advised that the income for the cemeteries would need to be amended to take into consideration the 5% increase that had been agreed in minute no. A152 above.

Councillors felt that the pond that had been planned as a biodiversity pond, could no longer be considered a biodiversity pond and it was suggested that Gaynor Williams the Council's biodiversity consultant be invited to the next meeting of Amenities to provide an update on the biodiversity project within the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. The Deputy Executive Officer advised that the Council had made several applications for funding from various organisations but to no avail. He advised that he was still waiting to hear from the Vale of Glamorgan

Council with regard to the CASH grant application that the Council had submitted. Councillor Hampton offered to find out what the situation was with this application and suggested that the Deputy Executive contact Tony Williams at the Vale of Glamorgan Council enquiring about the progress of the application.

The Deputy Executive Officer advised that a lifebuoy and warning signs had been purchased for placing around the pond and the Committee were informed that the Friends of the Cemetery had donated £250 towards the purchase of these items.

Councillor N Hodges enquired on whether finances had been placed in the draft estimates for the Blind Park project should the Council be successful in their bid to become responsible for the Blind Park. The Deputy Executive Officer stated that he believed the funds had been placed into the Council's draft estimates, however not in the Amenities budget as yet.

RESOLVED:

1. that a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery for their continued support;
2. Gaynor Williams be invited to attend the next meeting of the Amenities Committee to provide an update on the progress of the biodiversity project within Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery;
3. that the pay phone in the Pioneer Hall be removed and the monies saved from the line rental be placed into the budget for electricity and gas for the Pioneer Hall for the 2011/12 financial year;
4. that the "Miscellaneous" and "Refunds" heads in the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery expenditure for 2011/12 be merged into one heading "miscellaneous";
5. that a request be made to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee for the release of funds that had been held in a Special Project Reserve since 2007/08 in the total of £3,493 to enable energy efficiency savings to be made at the Pioneer Hall.
6. that the income figures for the cemeteries be amended to take into consideration the 5% agreed in minute no. A152 above and that the draft estimates be submitted to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee on 17 February 2011 for consideration.

A158. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: to note that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled for 31 January 2011.

The meeting ended at 8.14 pm.

Signed
 (Chairperson)

Date