

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2011 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor B Brooks (Chairperson) plus Councillors P Drake, J Evans, K Evans, H C Hamilton, N P Hodges, S A Hodges, K Lewis, and E T Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Cliff Lewis – Deputy Executive Officer
Angie Norman – Administration
Gaynor Williams – SEM Services

A159. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors O Cash, K Kuhnell (Town Mayor ex-officio), B I Shaw

A160. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

A161. **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2010**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Amenities Committee's meeting on 29 November 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

A162. **PRESENTATION FROM GAYNOR WILLIAMS – BIODIVERSITY**

The Committee agreed to bring Agenda Item 5(c) forward.

Gaynor Williams from SEM Services, the Council's Biodiversity Advisor had been invited to attend the meeting to provide members with an update on the biodiversity. She advised members that although the original pond had been increased in size during the recent extension works, it could still be used as a biodiversity pond, but that the original ideas would have to be amended. A suggestion was made that a further pond be created in the new extension area of the cemetery and it was agreed that a site visit should take place on a weekend where Councillors and the Deputy Executive Officer could attend to assess the current pond and the possible siting of a further pond.

RESOLVED:

1. That a site meeting be arranged at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, on a weekend, to allow Committee Members to meet with the Deputy Executive Officer and discuss the way forward with regards the biodiversity project in the cemetery and to consider the possibility of an alternative site for a second pond within the cemetery.

2. that following the site visit a small group meet to discuss the possible planting out of plants to allow the biodiversity project to move forward. The group is to be made up of the Deputy Executive Officer, Councillors Brooks, Hamilton, Lewis, N Hodges and Gaynor Williams.

A163. **PIONEER HALL**

- a. **Comparison of Bookings (1 April 2009 – 31 December 2010)**

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

- b. **Activities Report (1 September – 31 December 2010)**

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

A164. **CEMETERIES**

- a. **Comparison of Burials (1 April 2009 – 31 December 2010)**

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted;

- b. **Activities Report (1 September – 31 December 2010)**

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be received and noted;
2. that in future if there is no new information to report to the Committee the Deputy Executive Officer will not be required to submit a report.

- d. **CASH (Community Action Self Help) Scheme 2010/11**

The Committee was advised that the Council had been successful in its application to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's 2010/11 Community Action Self Help Grant for assistance with the biodiversity project, Phase II, at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. They were informed that a grant in the sum of £3,500 had been secured and that this was to be match funded by this Council and that a request be made from this Committee to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee for the release of the funds held in the biodiversity budget for 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

1. That recommendations made by Gaynor Williams in minute no. A163 be taken into account with regard the biodiversity project, Phase II, at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

2. That the Council proceed with Phase II of the biodiversity (amended project) as a matter of urgency in accordance with the funding conditions set out by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
3. That a recommendation be made to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee requesting that the funds held in the biodiversity budget for 2010/11 be released with the remaining balance being funded from the 2011/12 biodiversity budgets.

e. **Vandalism of Cemetery Toilets**

The Committee was informed of vandalism that had occurred to the newly refurbished toilets at the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery on 28 December 2010 and 2 January 2011.

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be received and noted.
2. that any future acts of vandalism be reported to the Committee to note and action as the Committee decides.

f. **Protocol for Donations of Various Items to the Cemetery**

The Committee was provided with a copy of a draft protocol for donations of various items to the cemetery.

RESOLVED:

1. that the report be received and noted;
2. that the draft protocol for Donations of Various Items to the Cemetery be recommended to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 18 April 2011.

g. **Open Doors Project**

The Committee were advised that following the open day at the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery in September 2010, a letter had been received from Open Doors, a scheme that was organised by the Civic Trust for Wales, indicating their interest in the Chapel at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery becoming a participating site in the Open Doors project.

Councillors were very interested in the project and the Cemetery Chapel becoming a member of the project.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Executive Officer advise representatives of the Open Doors Project that this Council would welcome the opportunity for the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel to become a participant site in the Open Doors Project and that he keep the Committee informed of any progress at future meetings.

A165. **UPDATE REPORTS ON BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

a. **Architects Report**

The Committee was advised that problems were being experienced with regard water being discharged from the Cemetery into Cemetery Lane. He advised that following an inspection Martin Killick was instructed to investigate the discharge as a matter of urgency. The water was not considered to be surface water, but a defect in the Contractor's installation or a breakdown in a major water supply mains pipe. The Deputy Executive Officer advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had informed him that this Council was partly responsible for the drain in question and therefore liable for part of the cost of any works that needed to be carried out. Councillor Williams asked whether the drains on Cemetery Lane had been adopted, the Deputy Executive Officer advised that he was unsure. Councillor Williams advised that the Deputy Executive Officer should contact Alan Boslyn from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to enquire whether the drains had been adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Deputy Executive Officer contact Alan Boslyn at the Vale of Glamorgan Council to enquire whether the drain in question has been adopted.
2. that the report be received and noted.

b. **Deputy Executive Officers Report**

The Deputy Executive Officer informed the Committee that the he had been advised by Martin Killick that the taps in the cemetery needed to be changed. Martin had been advised by Welsh Water that the taps should be replaced at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery to avoid any unnecessary leakage and that the recommendation from Welsh Water could be enforced. Martin Killick has requested additional information from Welsh Water. He advised that the replacement taps would cost approximately £200 per tap and that there were only two providers of the taps, Welsh Water and one other company that was affiliated to Welsh Water. He had requested a report from Welsh Water on why

the taps should be replaced and updated within an agreed time scale and would advise the Committee further on receipt of the report.

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

A166. **TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIALS (488-498)**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Standing Order 68, authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deed Transfers numbered 488-498 inclusive, granting exclusive right of burial to those named on each transfer.

A167. **GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIALS (13081-13086)**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Standing Order 68, authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deeds numbered 13081-13086 inclusive, granting the exclusive right of burial to those named on each transfer.

A168. **BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENTS (1 APRIL – 31 DECEMBER 2010)**

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

A169. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: to note that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled for Monday, 28 March 2011 at 7.00 pm.

Signed
(Chairperson)

Dated.....