

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 6 JULY 2020

PRESENT: Councillors N P Hodges (Chair), Aviet, Clarke, Johnson, Richardson (Vice Chair) and Rowlands.

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Evans – Facilities and Cemeteries Manager
Rhian Burns – Administrator
Councillor S Hodges – Observer
Councillor H Payne – Observer
JV Tree Services
Jeff Ball - Gates and Railings

A213. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nugent-Finn.

A214. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that Councillor Johnson had been granted Dispensation to allow him to speak and vote on matters appertaining to any Community Facilities owned or run by Barry Town Council, by virtue that he is a Vale of Glamorgan Council Trustee for the Alexandra Gardens Community Association.

A215. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE'S MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2020**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee's meeting held on 2 March 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

The Chair requested that Agenda Item 8a be brought forward for discussion with the invited guests.

A 216. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

A 217. **CEMETERY**

a. Fence and trees

The representatives from JV Tree Services noted that there were two options for dealing with the Leylandii Cypress trees on the boundary of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery – they could be reduced in height, thinned out or removed entirely. They advised that in their opinion the best course of action financially, for safety and for the biodiversity of the area would be to remove the Leylandii Cypress row and replant native species.

They advised that if the height were reduced the trees would still grow rapidly from the lower branches and become unbalanced. As the trees had been planted so closely they were dependent on each other for support and thinning out the trees would leave them at a much higher risk of falling. They noted that here was a high target rate on all sides of the trees and that their advice may be different if they were situated on open remote farmland for example.

The practicalities of replacing the fencing were discussed with it being advised by the fencing contractor that this would be virtually impossible to replace the fence along the current boundary. JV tree services also advised that should any of the trees fail they would likely pull out the fencing if they fell.

JV Tree Services noted that changes in weather conditions and the increase in the severity of storms meant that they were increasingly seeing otherwise healthy trees failing due to this. They also advised that trees have a finite lifespan and all trees will need to be replaced at some point. The species of trees they suggested replacement with were all smaller, native species such as Hawthorne, Rowan and Crab Apple.

It was noted that Members attending the meeting remotely had not been able to fully hear the advice given due to technical issues.

JV Tree Services advised that they could supply a list of advantages and disadvantages to each of the options which could be presented for public consultation. Members agreed that it was important to gather feedback from the public and requested JV Tree Services attend a meeting of Full Council in order to agree a way forward with the involvement of all Councillors.

RESOLVED: That JV Tree Services be invited to attend a future meeting of Full Council in order to agree a way forward with the involvement of all Councillors.

A218.

INCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public were able to attend for the remainder of the meeting.

JV Tree Services and Fencing contractor left the meeting. Councillor Rowlands left the meeting.

The Chair requested that the update report be discussed prior to the Budget Monitoring Report June 2020 being received

A219.

UPDATE REPORT

Members were provided with an update on developments and changes made since the last meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee met on 2 March 2020.

Members discussed the report and the recommendations. It was felt that the recommended increase in the speed limit from 5mph to 10mph was not desirable and that the 5mph speed limit should be maintained.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the historic notice boards be installed at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery in order to prevent them becoming damaged whilst in storage and that these are highlighted through the press and a possible event when regulations allow.**
- 2. That Welsh Government regulations are followed in respect of the number of mourners allowed at graveside and in the chapel.**
- 3. That the 5mph speed limit at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery be reinforced with signage and stencilling on the road.**
- 4. That this speed limit be reviewed in one years' time.**
- 5. That narrower roads be identified with a view to blocking them to car traffic.**
- 6. That an information board be placed outside the Philadelphia Cemetery and a talk be held there when regulations allow.**
- 7. That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities (to be reviewed on 20 September) outlining feedback from staff and members of the public on the Councils' actions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

A 220.

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT JUNE 2020

Members received the Committee's income and expenditure in the 2020/21 financial year as at the end of June 2020. It was noted that the main reason of the overspend was due to Covid-19 additional expenditure of circa £9,000 with an associated loss of income projected to be circa £26,000.

Members requested clarification on what some of the budget heading covered and felt it would be useful to have a separate budget heading for Covid-19 related expenses in order to better understand the costs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the schedule of payments for June 2020 noting the projected overspend of £35,015 in 2020/21.
2. That a separate budget heading be included for costs relating to Covid-19.

A 221. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(aa)**

RESOLVED that Standing Order 3(aa) be suspended for a period of thirty minutes.

A 222. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the date of the next meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee will be reviewed on 20 September 2020.

A 223. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

A224. **CEMETERY**

b. Ground conditions

Members were provided with an update on the ground conditions on new sections at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery in order to allow for a temporary hold on three depth graves.

RESOLVED:

1. That the costings for a geological survey of the area be investigated.
2. That test holes further up the section be dug in order to identify whether it will be possible to offer three depth graves there in the future.
3. That it be identified whether there is another area of the cemetery where it would be possible to offer three depth graves in the meantime.

c. Road works

Members received an update on the proposed repair works to the roads at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

RESOLVED: That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager be given authorisation to make the necessary arrangements for the necessary roadworks to take place at a cost of £13,313.90.

A 225.

CEMETERY LODGE

Members received an update on the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Lodge.

RESOLVED: That a business plan be prepared including costings for the preferred option.

The meeting ended at 8.42 pm

SignedDate