

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2021, AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors N Hodges (Chairperson), Aviet, Clarke, Richardson and Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Sims – Deputy Chief Officer
Amanda Evans – Facilities and Cemeteries Manager
Beth Hillier – Sustainable Project Officer
Hannah Linton – Trainee Administrator
Councillor S Hodges – Observer

A 301. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nugent-Finn.

A 302. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

A303. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

RESOLVED that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

A 304. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 JULY 2021**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee held on 5 July 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

A 305. **CEMETERIES**

A. Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery

i. **Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Update**

Members were provided a report from the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager regarding an update on Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager asked Members what they would like Barry Town Council to do with the 25 jars of honey that was collected on the first Harvest, noting that the Council were unable to sell or donate at this current time. She also noted that the 5MPH speed limited has been better received and Cemetery team have noticed a reduction in speed from visitors.

Councillor S Hodges suggested that all Councillors could collect a pot of honey to try whilst the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager looks into other options.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that work was due to start on headstones and on-going roadwork/path improvements, and also stated that a new leaflets notice board had been erected outside the Team Leaders Office. She also informed members, which was well received, on the ICCM awarding Barry Town Council the silver award for the ICCM bereavement charter.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager informed members that the older Kubota's currently in use at the Cemetery would need updated due to the age and use, she noted the estimated costing of a new Kubota would be between £11,000 and £14,000.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager obtain different options in regards to future honey harvest.**
- 2. That all Councillors are emailed to be offered a jar of honey**
- 3. That the 5MPH speed limit at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery stay in place.**
- 4. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager will provide the Committee with costings for new Kubota's in November 2021.**

ii. Heritage Notice Board

Members were provided a report with an update on the Jimmy Wilde famous notice board and the Heritage board timeline for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery in support of the Heritage status.

The Chair began and noted the large attendance to the CADW cemetery event and the interest in the famous boards, and the great response from the visitors in regards to the new additions.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager advised that a name had been put forward for consideration, Hinds-Payne and asked the members for any recommendations they had for new additions to the famous notice boards.

Councillor S Hodges inquired whether the Race Riots of 1919 could be incorporated and introduce a few places of importance. The Councillor also queries whether the Council abided by the 20-year rule for the famous notice boards (Hinds-Payne died in 2007).

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the Race Riots were incorporated on the Heritage Notice Board (timeline).

Councillor Johnson advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council Committee for statues were looking into erecting a statue for Councillor

Hinds-Payne and wanted to work with the local Town Council's on this going forward.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager also noted that the Council have already confirmed a Commemorative Wall and Hinds-Payne was being considered for this.

Councillor S Hodges stated she had a few names in mind and would create dialogue to go with her suggestions and forward them onto the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager.

The Chair suggested the next to be honoured should be a sailor as Barry is a Dock Town, and noted it would create a good mix of honoured people.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the Heritage Notice Board timeline would be updated in Welsh once the committee approved the draft, and also noted that the blank space above on the timeline would be where the Welsh translation would sit and would include the Barry Town Council crest.

Councillor Johnson queried the large 60-year gap between WW2 and the refurbishment of the Chapel in 2005.

The Deputy Chief Officer suggested including in 1974 Barry Town Council was formed, and the Chair also suggested adding dialogue to the WW2 section that states the graves of all service men and women.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee approved the Jimmy Wilde famous notice board plaque and for the dialogue to be translated into Welsh.**
- 2. That the Heritage Notice Board timeline be updated to include the Barry Town Council crest, the information of Barry Town Council in 1974 and update the dialogue for the WW2 section, then translate into Welsh.**
- 3. That the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee approve the Heritage Notice Board timeline to be translated into Welsh.**

iii. Grassland Management Proposal

Members were provided with a report in regards to the proposal to work with the Local Nature Partnership to collaborate on the management of our grasslands and meadows.

The Sustainable Project Officer reported due to the cancellation of the Sustainable Barry Working Party meeting was cancelled due to technical

difficulties, they were not able to get suggestions from members to bring forward in this meeting. She noted that the Local Nature Partnership had received funding for this project, and they wanted to work with local Town Councils which included Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. She reported that taking away the grass clippings would help the wild flowers flourish and also help with the native bee's in the area.

The Chair asked if the proposal was agreed upon, would Local Nature Partnership be able to complete the work before the end of September.

The Sustainable Project Officer noted that Local Nature Partnership were able to accommodate the Council, once it has been approved by the Sustainable Barry Working Party Committee. She continued to note the recommendation for the Woodland Regeneration margin to be extended to allow further wildlife habitat growth.

The Chair also suggested looking into managing the areas around the ponds better.

The Sustainable Project Officer concurred and noted she would include the suggestion into her report going forward.

The Sustainable Project Officer left the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Halls, Cemeteries and Facilities Committee approve the two recommendations provided;

- 1. That a Grassland Management Plan be developed with the Local Nature Partnership and that the Cut and Collect Services offered by the Local Nature Partnership are utilised for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and Cemetery Approach Gardens.**
- 2. That the woodland margin section highlighted in blue be extended to create more habitats for wildlife.**

B. Porthkerry Cemetery

i. Porthkerry Cemetery Update

Members were provided a report from the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager regarding an update on Porthkerry Cemetery.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that Porthkerry Cemetery only had three full burial plots left, she informed the Vale of Glamorgan Council of this and had a response that stated the issue would be raised at their next Leadership meeting. The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager also stated her concern due to the possibility of running out before the completion of any extension.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager contact the Vale of Glamorgan Council to discuss costings of the non-resident fees for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, if Porthkerry Cemetery is no longer available, as it currently stands at triple the charge for non-residents of Barry.**
- 2. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager to keep the Vale of Glamorgan Council updated in relation to burials and fees should the Cemetery become full and the need to use Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, with full backing of committee members.**

A 306.

FACILITIES

a. Update on Pioneer Hall and Cemetery Approach Community Centre

Members were provided a report from the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager regarding an update on both Pioneer Hall and the Cemetery Approach Community Centre.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager sort out clarification on what times regular and private party hirers at the Cemetery Approach Community Centre needed to be finished by, 22:30pm for regular hirers and 21:00pm for private party hirers.

The Chair confirmed that the times the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager gave were correct.

A discussion over the Bouncy Castle in Pioneer Hall was had, the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that party hirers are enquiring on whether or not private hire bouncy castles were allowed. She also stated that the insurance company has been checked, and the Council will not be liable for any accidents from a private hire bouncy castle.

Councillor Richardson noted her concern with the parties booking private hire bouncy castles, she stated that priority should be on health and safety, and negative press would come back to the Council as the building owners.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Richardson's objections to the bouncy castle and noted it would make Cemetery Approach Community Centre a target for outdoor bouncy castles during the summer months, if the Council were to allow private hires.

Councillor Clarke stated that liability could be shifted onto the Council as building owners.

RESOLVED that the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee denies private party hirers from using outsourced bouncy castle companies in the Pioneer Hall and Cemetery Approach Community Centre.

A 307. **TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (1246 – 1266 INCLUSIVE)**

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 27(a), authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Transfer Deeds numbered 1246 – 1266 inclusive, granting the transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial to those named on each transfer request.

A 308. **GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (13819 – 13826 INCLUSIVE)**

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 27(a), authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deeds of Exclusive Right of Burial numbered 13819 – 13826 inclusive, granting the Exclusive Right of Burial to those named on the interment form.

A 309. **TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 (INTERIM)**

Members received a report in relation to the schedule of payments for September 2021 consisting of cheque number 2976, direct debits and BACS payments, in the amount of £17,392.70.

RESOLVED that the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee approve the schedule of payments for September 2021 (Interim).

A 310. **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2021**

Members received a report with the Committee's income and expenditure in the 2021/22 financial year as at the end of August 2021.

The Deputy Chief Officer informed members that the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery are continuing to see a large amount of rock being removed from the new section, and taking up a large amount of space within the compound / tip area. He advised that officers are arranging to have up to thirty loads to be cleared and then going forward would look at one load per month for the remainder of the year. The Deputy Chief Officer advised that one load would consist of approx. 8 tonnes and cost £180 resulting in a total cost of £6,300.

The Chair concurred that the compound / tip area would need clearing and also the continuation of clearing the new section. He noted his concern in regards to the on-going financial obligation, and stated that the Cemetery was already over subsidised and rightly so for burials.

The Deputy Chief Officer advised that the new section would provide graves for a further 3-4 years and it is uncertain on whether the ground rock will improve as we move up the section. Officers will continue to

monitor the budget and inform members accordingly if an overspend is anticipated later in the financial year.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee received and noted the budget monitoring report to 31 August 2021.**
- 2. That the rock from the new section at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery continue to be emptied and monitored.**

A 311. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the date of the next Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities meeting will be held on 8 November 2021.

A 312. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that 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 313. **CEMETERY FENCING**

Members received a report from the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager with an update as to the complaint from the resident at St Teilo Avenue.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager confirmed with members the expectations from the resident at St Teilo Avenue.

The Chair noted that the tyres had already been removed and the rock had been scrapped back from the property line.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the issue continued with the trees roots growing into the resident's garden and also the stumps remaining pushing against the fencing.

Councillor Clarke stated he was not keen on removing the trees in that area with Councillor Richardson agreeing and noting that the trees were within boundary lines and also perfectly healthy.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager informed Committee members that the fence had been braced, however was still leaning back.

The Chair stated that the stumps were now dead/dormant and would no longer continue to grow or cause any damage.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager concurred and expressed that the tree expert explained that the stumps have not been able to grow for several years and that they have already been poisoned. She also noted

that the removal of both fencing and stumps might be an option and would obtain costs, and seek advice as to what can safely be considered.

Councillor S Hodges stated it was hard to make a decision and suggested looking into more options.

The Chair recommended notifying the resident that the trees were to remain, as they are fit and healthy, and also explain that the Council are exploring more options in regards to the fencing and stumps.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager notify the resident of St Teilo Avenue that the trees were to remain, and that the Council are exploring more options in regards to the fencing and stumps.**

- 2. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager explores more options and contacts the tree expert and fencing contractors for recommendations**

A 314. **KING WILLIAM PUBLIC HOUSE**

Members were provided a report with further information received with regards to the damp at the King William Public House.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Council continue with their maintenance programme at Philadelphia Cemetery.**

- 2. That the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager contact the Council's Technical Officer to clarify the situation with the damp at the King William Public House.**

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Signed (Chairperson) Dated