

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2022, AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillor N Hodges (Chairperson) together with, Councillors Aviet, Clarke, Johnson and Rowlands

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

A 333. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Richardson.

A 334. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

A 335. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

A 336. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021

Councillor Johnson noted that the Biodiversity action plan stated progress and queried whether that should be listed for a future meeting.

The Deputy Chief Officer confirmed that the Biodiversity Action Plan would indeed be updated in a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the minutes be amended to update the Biodiversity Action Plan progress be updated at a future meeting.**
- 2) That the minutes of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee held on 8 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record once amendment had been made.**

A 337. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

RESOLVED that the Budget Monitoring Report to 31 December 2021 were received and noted.

A 338. PROJECTS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2017 – 2022

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the projects and achievements over the last 5 years have been really strong and the committee have managed to complete a lot even whilst restriction from Covid-19 were in place.

The Chair noted that the gardens throughout were wonderful and Lewis Tiley had done an excellent job with repurposing materials for them.

Councillor Johnson suggested that the Council promote the work the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee had completed throughout the last 5 years. He also noted that the Cemetery is one of Wales' nicest and should be promoted across the Council's social media and website.

The Chair concurred and noted that since the last election the committee had achieved everything they intended and more that was set out, with thanks to all Officers, Staff and Councillors. He noted that the Cemetery is nicer, more interesting and is personal to many and also a lovely public space. The Chair agreed with Councillor Johnson that the good news should be promoted and shared with the Town and thank them for their support, he suggested a general press release for the public should be submitted.

Councillor Johnson second that suggestion.

Councillor Nugent-Finn noted that the Cemetery, Facilities and surrounding areas had recently transformed from the continuous dedication from the staff and noted that the Cemetery and gardens were now a welcoming space. She extended her personal thank you for everyone involved.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **That a press release of the Projects and Achievements from the committee over the last 5 years be promoted.**
- 2) **That the Projects and Achievements 2017 – 2022 report was received and noted.**

A 339.

FACILITIES UPDATE

The members received a report providing an update on the Pioneer Hall and Cemetery Approach Community Centre, the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager updated members noting that during the current restriction parties have been postponed or cancelled but still continuing to have good feedback.

The Chair suggested updated the current poster to note the price freeze on the halls for this year, to help advertise the price and the two properties the Council manage.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **That the poster for both Pioneer Hall and Cemetery Approach Community Centre are updated to promote the price freeze on the hire fee at £60.00 for this year.**
- 2) **That the Facilities Update report was received and noted.**

A 340. TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (1284 – 1300)

RESOLVED that the Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial (1284 – 1300) were granted to those named on each transfer request.

A 341. GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (13846 – 13855 INCLUSIVE)

RESOLVED that the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial (13846 – 13855 inclusive) were granted to those named on the interment forms.

A 342. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair noted that the next scheduled meeting would be agreed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May however suggested that an extraordinary meeting may be required before the Annual Meeting of Council on 17 May 2022.

RESOLVED that the next scheduled meeting will be agreed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May however an extraordinary meeting may be required before the Annual Meeting of Council on 17 May 2022.

A343. 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 344. FENCING

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that a letter was received from the resident and the Council have straightened the fencing and provided a safe guard.

Councillor Rowlands stated that both the resident and Council believed that option 2 would satisfy both parties involved, with ECO plugs being used to stop any further growth from the tree stump and would continue with the option if the committee approved.

The Chair concurred that the committee were all in agreement with using option 2, ECO plugs to prevent further growth from the tree stump.

RESOLVED That the two fence bars causing an obstruction and posing a health and safety risk be removed, leaving everything else in situ and to ECO plug the two remaining tree stumps.

A 345.

HONEY

The report provided members with an update on the options to the future honey that can be obtained.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the report provided a lot of information and asked the committee to consider how they would want to continue.

The Chair noted that the Bees were the main priority originally and welcomed member's opinions on the subject.

Councillor Johnson interjected that the bees were introduced to help with the Cemeteries Biodiversity and noted if the Council were to sell the honey, it would take time and money to pay the staff involved for the production. He stated his opinion would be to keep the bees for populating and pollinating, helping keep the Green Flag Award obtained for many more years to come.

Councillor Aviet agreed that the bees should be left as is to help with the Biodiversity.

RESOLVED that the committee agreed to keep the bees for the biodiversity and leave them to populate and pollinate.

A346.

MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY

A report was provided to members with an update on Merthyr Dyfan Chapel, the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager apologised to the committee for the delay in costings for the repairs and noted that Lapidier had picked up on cracks and their costs are noted in the report.

The Chair noted that the issues noted were all weather bearing and the repairs were inevitable, he queries when the work would be completed.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted she would have to obtain an additional two quotes and would report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Councillor Johnson inquired how the making safe and preserving of the headstones at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery were going.

The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager updated the Committee noting that the inspection programme was going strong and should be completed within the initial timescale. The older orphaned headstones over 1.5m have all been checked and the making safe of these headstones was almost completed.

RESOLVED that the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager would obtain an additional two quotes to present to the Halls, Cemeteries and community Facilities Committee at the next meeting held and the report was received and noted.

A347. PORTHKERRY CEMETERY

The committee received a report updating them on Porthkerry Cemetery, the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager noted that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had received correspondence with regards to the fees advising that they would not cover the triple fees for burials in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery for Rhose residents. The Facilities and Cemeteries Manager stated that Porthkerry had only two plots remaining.

Councillor Johnson stated that the Vale of Glamorgan Council are responsible for Porthkerry Cemetery, noting the space available was provided in the letters to the Vale of Glamorgan Council sent over time and time again. He noted that if the Vale of Glamorgan Council haven't looked into the issue, it is up to the Vale of Glamorgan Council to cover the costs of burials that take place in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry. Councillor Johnson also noted that residents outside of Barry have not paid for the upkeep of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery throughout the years.

The Chair concurred that both Councils have been updated and suggested responding that the triple fees would continue.

Councillors Clarke and Johnson second that suggestion.

RESOLVED that the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee respond to the Vale of Glamorgan noting that the non-resident fee will continue to be in place for non-residents.

A 348. BARRY SEA CADETS

The report provided notified members of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee of the request from the Barry Sea Cadets, the Facilities and Cemeteries Manager explained that the Barry Sea Cadets wanted to reduce the monthly cost for the hire of the Pioneer Hall due to the Covid restrictions and not being able to continue in their own hall.

Councillor Johnson noted that in the report it stated that they hadn't received any Covid grant support, when as a Council had continuously provided grant support with others available. He noted his uncertainty of dropping the prices when funding was available to help pay for things such as accommodation fees for organisations.

Councillor Rowlands agreed and suggested advising the organisation of the grants available to them with a direct list, he noted his discomfort to lowering the price and if grants weren't provided to the Barry Sea Cadets look into to why.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Chief Officer direct the Barry Sea Cadets to the grants available for them to cover the Pioneer Hall hire fees.

A 349. EPC REPORTS

A report was provided to members produced by Lapidier relating to the Environmental Performance Certification (EPCs) for the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel, Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Lodge and the Pioneer Hall.

The Deputy Chief Officer recommended that the Carbon Neutral Environment Plan be deferred to after the elections for the new administration to decide for inclusion within the budget for 2023/2024.

Councillor Johnson agreed with deferring the plan for the new administration to approve with costings and reports being provided in the future.

The Chair concurred with deferring the plan until after the election and to seek more information on costings and funding.

RESOLVED that the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee will defer the decision on the EPC surveys until after the election for the new administration to approve.

Meeting closed at 19:41pm.

Signed (Chairperson) Dated