

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET,
BRIDGEND ON FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 2.15PM

Present:-

Councillor R K Turner – Chairperson
(Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council)

Representing Bridgend County Borough Council

Councillor W B Evans
Councillor M C Voisey
Councillor K Watkins
Councillor C Westwood
Councillor M Winter
Councillor M Inglesant

Representing Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Councillor G A Cox

Officers:

Mr Rhodri-Gwyn Jones	-	Technical Officer
Ms Joanna Hamilton	-	Crematorium Superintendent and Registrar
Mr Keith Fowler	-	Group Accountant
Mr M A Galvin	-	Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Members:-

Councillor A J Preston – unwell
Councillor W C Vaughan

86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

87 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee dated 6 June 2006, be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to its being noted that in Minute No. 76, the reason for Councillor Inglesant being unable to attend the meeting was due to her having to have her gas boiler urgently repaired and not to her having home improvements, as stated in the minutes.

88 FOETAL REMAINS

The Crematorium Superintendent and Registrar presented a report on behalf of the Technical Officer, which advised that the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) had published a revised Policy Document relating to the disposal of non-viable fetuses. An associated Policy Document for this was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The report went on to summarise the main provisions of the attached Policy Document and also gave some statistical information on the number of non-viable fetuses cremated in recent years both nationally and insofar as it related locally to the Coychurch Crematorium.

The report also advised that the Coychurch Crematorium had been approached by the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend to assist in cremating non-viable fetuses on a communal basis, thus adopting a similar joint practice to the Thornhill Crematorium and Heath Hospital, Cardiff.

The Officer advised that this change in practice would obviously result in a dramatic increase in the amount of non-viable fetuses being disposed of in a given year.

Following consideration of the report and attached at Appendix 1 by Members and arising from discussions that ensued, it was

- RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee
- (1) Approves the entering into of an agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend for the communal cremation of foetal remains.
 - (2) Approves the introduction of a charge for a communal cremation at the same level as for an adult cremation.

89 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Technical Officer presented a report which outlined at Appendix 2 local performance indicators reflecting statistical information in relation to the users' satisfaction of the Council's bereavement services provided by the Coychurch Crematorium.

The results shown were for the period 1st April-30th June 2006 and it was noted with pleasure by Members that the overall standard shown for these services was 100% good or excellent.

Joint Committee members were particularly pleased with the comments regarding the excellent manners shown to the bereaved and other members of the public by the groundsman and the Chairperson conveyed his thanks on behalf of members to this member of staff for his positive attitude and approach to his work.

- RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the report on Performance Management with pleasure.

90 SALE OF CAPEL COITY ORGAN

The Technical Officer submitted a report on the above Pipe Organ, gifted to Coychurch Crematorium at the commencement of the summer.

The report confirmed that the previous organ had been sold for a sum of £3,000.00, which Members acknowledged was a significantly high price for such an instrument.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

91 PRESS RELEASE

The Technical Officer reported upon a press release (Appendix 3 of the report refers) which had been published via a number of media outlets at the wishes of the Joint Committee following the Coychurch Crematorium being commended in Professor Hilary J. Grainger's book entitled, "Death Re-designed" and in the FBCA's report.

The Chairperson confirmed that he had recently had a number of persons express their gratitude to him over the comments made with regard to the excellent and positive way the Crematorium is run and, to this end, he thanked on behalf of the Joint Committee, the Crematorium Superintendent and Registrar and her staff at the Crematorium for the work they were continuing to put in which gave the establishment such an excellent reputation.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the report.

92 MERCURY EMISSIONS – CAMEO Management Committee

The Technical Officer gave an update (to previous reports) which reminded the Joint Committee of its previous decision at the meeting in December 2005 to inform the Environmental Health Department of the Authority that it proposes to opt for the burden sharing alternative offered in the Crematorium Abatement of Mercury Emissions Organisations (CAMEO) scheme rather than install mercury abatement facilities at this stage.

The report attached at Appendix 4, a letter from the Federation of British Crematorium Authorities which advised the Joint Committee of FBCA's proposal to create a management committee within the federation dedicated to CAMEO.

A member of the Joint Committee voiced some concern over the possibility of the setting up of another quango and, as a result of this, costs which may possibly have to be borne by the Coychurch Crematorium. He questioned whether the works could not be undertaken by the Federation itself.

Officers advised that CAMEO would not be funded by local authorities until at least 2013 and, therefore, any consideration of cost implications to local authorities was premature at this stage.

The Crematorium Superintendent and Registrar stated that should a particular crematorium deal with a significantly high amount of cremations within a given period, it may turn out that abatement equipment would have to be installed

rather than the crematorium have a choice of following the burden sharing alternative.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the report.

93 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT – 1st April – 31st July 2006

The Treasurer submitted a report which outlined the Coychurch Crematorium's Revenue Monitoring Statement, for the first quarter of the current year.

The report included in tabular form details of the income and expenditure this financial year, including a projection of the final outturn.

The Officer advised that the final net total of surplus would be in the region of £85,000 (and not £91K as detailed in the report) which hopefully would go a considerable way to financing the second tranche of the land purchase proposals for the Crematorium.

He added that, at this time, there were no significant changes to what was budgeted for at the start of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That the financial report be noted.

94 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Cabinet Member for Environmental and Planning Services with the consent of the Chairperson of the Joint Committee also thanked the Crematorium Superintendent and Registrar for an excellent quarterly performance report. He added that the Coychurch Crematorium was a 'model business' and that he hoped the excellent work would long continue.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm