

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON
FRIDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2012 AT 2.00PM

Present:-

Representing Bridgend County Borough Council

Councillor E Dodd
Councillor A Owen
Councillor D Pugh
Councillor C L Jones
Councillor C Westwood
Councillor P White

Representing Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Councillor K J Geary
Councillor G John

Representing Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Officers:

S Hooper - Bereavement Services Manager
J Hamilton - Crematorium Manager and Registrar
F Mantle - Finance Manager Technical and Corporate
R Ronan - Democratic Services Officer - Committees
R Martin - Risk Management and Insurance Officer

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members and Officers:-

Councillor E Hacker - Other Council Business
Councillor B Stephens - Other Council Business
Councillor R K Turner - Other Council Business
Mr Chris Howell - Head of Street Scene

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee dated 7 September 2012 be received as a true and accurate record, subject to the minute relating to present be amended to absent for Councillor B Stephens.

17 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT - 1 APRIL TO 31 OCTOBER 2012

The Finance Manager and Technical and Corporate presented a report to the Committee the purpose of which is to inform Members of the projected income and expenditure for this financial year as compared to the budget set in March 2012.

She explained that table 1 provides detail of income and expenditure to date for this financial year and gives a projection of the final projected outturn.

The Finance Manager Technical and Corporate explained that based on income received to the end of October, it is projected that there will be a small surplus of £16,000 of income as compared to budget by the end of the financial year. As a result of the improved income projection it is now estimated that it will be possible to increase the reserve by £51k.

The Finance Manager Technical and Corporate told the Committee that this would be the first full financial year where the impact of the opening of the new Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium in Barry had been felt. Prior to the opening of the new Crematorium, total income received by Coychurch Crematorium was £955,000 with fee increases of 3% in April 2011 and a further 4.2% in April 2012. Total income would have been expected to be in the region of £1.025m in 2012/3 as compared to the £860,000 currently anticipated, this is therefore a reduction of income of around 16% (£165,000).

The Committee congratulated the officers on the increase in projected surplus for 2012/13 despite competition from the new Crematorium.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee notes the report.

18 NEW CREMATORIUM IN VALE OF GLAMORGAN

The Bereavement Services Manager presented a report to the Committee the purpose of which is to advise the Joint Committee on the impact of the new Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium.

She explained that comparison has been made between the 12 months preceding the opening of the new Crematorium and the period after and the number of cremations has reduced from 1752 to 1453. This was however offset by an increase in the demand for burial plots in the new memorial extension area.

The loss of income had therefore been reduced to approximately £75k. The situation will be monitored.

The Bereavement Services Manager explained to the Committee that although it was anticipated that Funeral Directors would gravitate towards the new Crematorium to reduce travelling times this had not transpired, residents in Wick and Cowbridge also appear to still be favouring Coychurch Crematorium. The fact that Coychurch Crematorium has a large chapel also attracts business as Bridgend tends to host larger funerals.

The Bereavement Services Manager informed Members that as charges are significantly higher at the new Crematorium this may have also affected choice and limited the impact on revenue.

A Member of the Committee asked if the extra income generated by the new memorial area would be available next year. The Bereavement Services Manager responded that people will still be able to purchase granite plots and therefore this income stream should continue. The Crematorium Manager and Registrar told the Committee that the new plots were proving to be extremely popular.

A Member of the Committee commented that traffic problems may also have affected business at the new Crematorium and were having an effect on the timings of funerals. Holding funerals close together was proving problematic. The new Crematorium also had only one small cremator and a small burial ground and preference in the Barry area seems to have swung towards burials.

The committee asked if the £100 fee quoted was for cremation and internment. The Bereavement Services Manager answered that it was just for cremation.

The Committee questioned whether there was scope to develop the granite memorial area. The Crematorium Manager and Registrar told Members that although the area was in the early stages there was five acres of land available which should last well into the future. The aim was to give the area a lasting style and appealing design.

The Committee commented that the significant monies held in reserve was very positive news.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee noted the contents of the report.

19 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Bereavement Services Manager presented a report to the Joint Committee to advise them of the arrangements for the Christmas Service 2012.

The Bereavement Services Manager informed the Joint Committee that there had been a theft from the roof of the small chapel at Coychurch Crematorium. The matter is under investigation and the options for increased CCTV coverage are being pursued.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee noted the contents of the report.

20 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation)(Wales) Order 2007 that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as the report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 13 and 15 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above to consider the confidential report in private with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) by virtue of Paragraphs 13 and 15 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Minute No.

Summary of Item:

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Staffing Issues