

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2013 AT 2.00PM

Present:

Representing Bridgend County Borough Council

Councillor E Dodd - Chairperson
Councillor A D Owen
Councillor D R Pugh
Councillor C Westwood

Representing Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Councillor K J Geary
Councillor E Hacker
Councillor G John

Representing Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Councillor B Stephens JP

Officers:

J Hamilton - Crematorium Manager and Registrar
S Hooper - Bereavement Services Manager
F Mantle - Finance Manager Technical and Corporate
A Hobbs - Acting Clerk and Technical Officer
J Monks - Democratic Services Officer - Committees

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P J White as he was unwell and Councillor R K Turner who was attending to Ward business.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

48 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee held on 6 September 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

49 MARGAM CREMATORIUM

The Acting Clerk and Technical Officer presented a report to inform the Joint Committee of the implications on the temporary closure of Margam Crematorium. Details of the incident which had resulted in the temporary closure were reported to the Joint Committee at its last meeting.

He advised that it was unlikely that Margam Crematorium would re-open before March 2014, which would result in a noticeable increase on last year in the number of cremations at Coychurch Crematorium throughout the winter period. He informed Members that this would take the number up to the level it was operating at prior to the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium opening; however the Crematorium was equipped to deal with the increased

capacity and as a consequence the anticipated income generated by the increase would be approximately £197k.

In response to a question from the Joint Committee the Crematorium Manager and Registrar explained that under current procedures the capacity for the number of cremations was restricted as the Crematorium only had two cremators; however they could be operated continuously if necessary with adjustments to the staff shift structure, and there was also the ability to change the time taken to cremate coffins in line with current industry practice. She advised that the Crematorium would be able to cope in the short term during the time that Margam Crematorium was closed, but it would put additional pressure on the cremators and staffing if the closure continued indefinitely.

One Member asked whether more cremations were coming to Coychurch Crematorium rather than going west to Swansea.

The Crematorium Manager and Registrar confirmed that Coychurch was taking a large proportion; however, Swansea was receiving those from the west side of Port Talbot. She reported that Funeral Directors who had only occasionally used Coychurch Crematorium in the past and were now using it constantly had commented that they preferred the facilities and staff and it could be that when Margam Crematorium re-opened, they may encourage bereaved families to continue to use it. There had also been similar positive comments from members of the public who had used Coychurch crematorium, as they had found it quick and easy to access from Margam and Port Talbot.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee noted the increased usage at Coychurch Crematorium.

50 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Acting Clerk and Technical Officer presented a report to advise the Joint Committee on the arrangements for the Christmas Service 2013. He reported that the Bridgend Male Voice Choir would again be providing the musical support and the refreshments would be sponsored by Rosemont Funeral Home.

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

51 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT 1 APRIL TO 31 OCTOBER 2013

The Finance Manager Technical and Corporate presented a report to provide the Joint Committee with details of the income and expenditure for this financial year, together with the final projected outturn.

She advised that there had been an underspend of £2k as a result of an overpayment of rates for 2013/14, which followed the rating revaluation anticipated for this year. There was also a projected overspend of £6k on the annual service charge, due to an increase in equipment repairs and maintenance costs, and an overspend of £7k as the result of an increase in contractual charges for grounds maintenance. Additional income of £96k related to the overpayment of rates for the financial years 2010/11 to 2012/13, which would be transferred into reserves at the year end to finance the replacement cremators.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee noted the report.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.