

**Houghton Regis Town Council
New Cemetery Sub-Committee
2nd September 2019 at 6.00pm**

Present:	Cllrs:	S Thorne J Carroll Y Farrell M S Kennedy R Morgan	Chair
	Officers:	Clare Evans Louise Senior	Town Clerk Head of Democratic Services
	Public:	0	
Apologies:		T Welch	

NC110 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Welch.

NC111 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

NC112 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

NC113 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the New Cemetery Sub-committee meeting held on the 8th July 2019.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2019.

NC114 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON NEW CEMETERY PROVISION

At the previous meeting it was requested to issue a press release to explain to residents the current situation and ask for any suggestions and ideas. This was duly completed. One social media comment had been received which suggested that CCTV should be installed in the existing cemetery and in car parks to aid the prevention of anti-social behaviour.

Members were requested to note that CBC had been approached again regarding new cemetery provision by a ward councillor. As a result the Assets Department had confirmed again that CBC had no suitable land available and Leisure Services had confirmed that a new cemetery was included in the Open Space Strategy as a need but that no land had been identified for this provision.

Members suggested that an article be included in the next Town Crier requesting suggestions and ideas as this would reach a different audience to social media.

Members requested that a further meeting of the New Cemetery Sub-committee be convened when approximately two burial spaces remain at the Houghton Regis Cemetery and that Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Councillors be invited to this meeting.

Resolved: To note the report.

NC115 GOING FORWARDS

Members were invited to consider options going forwards. The following points were made:

- The current space within the existing cemetery off Cemetery Road continued to reduce, it was estimated that 9 body burial spaces remain and around 20 ashes spaces remain;
- In relation to continued burial provision, the work of the council over the last 3 years or so especially had been following 2 strands:

The first being the design and development of the remaining space within the current cemetery. Infrastructure work on the new area within the existing cemetery was due to commence on 19th August 2019 and should complete late September / early October. Memorialisation features were in the process of being considered. It was estimated that this area would be available for use December / January.

The second strand related to the ongoing search for new cemetery land. The New Cemetery Sub Committee had considered a variety of sites but for various reasons, largely geological and ownership reasons, these had proved unsuitable.

- HRTC had pressed for cemetery provision during the local plan development process, through the consideration of major planning applications, through the review of the Open Space Strategy and through the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- Land had not been allocated for a new cemetery within the strategic development sites;
- Land outside of the strategic development sites had a 'hope' value attached to it;
- HRTC had no land available in its ownership which would be suitable;
- CBC have confirmed that they had no land available in their ownership which would be suitable.
- The council had considered the land requirements for a new cemetery.
- Officers and members of HRTC were all aware of the pressing need for a new cemetery. The need was raised at any suitable meeting or occasion, both formal

and informal.

Members were requested to provide guidance / instruction on future agenda items. Members agreed a more prudent use of council resource to only convene further meetings of this Sub Committee should a piece of land come forwards or a situation or circumstance change which would assist in this project.

Members requested that a further meeting of the New Cemetery Sub-committee be convened when approximately two burial spaces remain at the Houghton Regis cemetery and that Central Bedfordshire Council ward councillors be invited to this meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.18pm

Dated this day of 2019

Chairman