

**Houghton Regis Town Council
New Cemetery Sub-Committee
14th July 2020 at 6.00pm**

Present: HRTC S Thorne Chair
Cllrs: J Carroll
Y Farrell
R Morgan

CBC Cllr: S Goodchild

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Also present: Cllr: D Jones

Absent: Cllr: M S Kennedy

NC116 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

NC117 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

NC118 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the New Cemetery Working Group meeting held on the 2nd September 2019.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting held on the 2nd September 2019. and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

NC119 CURRENT BURIAL PROVISION

At the last mtg of the New Cemetery Sub Committee (2nd September 2019) it was requested that the next meeting be held when there were approximately 2 body burial spaces left and that CBC ward councillors be invited to attend.

At the time of preparing the agenda there were 3 body burial spaces left. On this basis this meeting had been called. It was confirmed that CBC ward councillors had been invited to this meeting.

The completion of body burial spaces would be advised through the council's website and social media and regular funeral directors would be directly contacted and advised.

Members raised concerns that residents of Houghton Regis would choose to be buried in their town, and not have to go to a neighbouring town, which would incur a higher cost.

Members discussed the areas and pieces of land that had been suggested and investigated and had proved to be unsuitable.

Members were advised no land provision had been made within HRN1 or HRN2 and were advised that Central Bedfordshire Council had advised Houghton Regis Town Council that there was no land available for cemetery use. The s106 agreements for HRN1 and HRN2 included, amongst other facilities, provision for funding for a new cemetery should there be an uplift in development values.

Members requested that Central Bedfordshire Council be approached again, formally by letter, in the hope that highlighting the number of available burial spaces remaining, and the possible ramifications of Covid 19, would demand a collective and more proactive approach.

Members requested that Councillor Hamill be contacted for his input, as was unable to attend this virtual meeting due to technical difficulties.

NC120 FUTURE MEETINGS

At the meeting on 2nd September 2019 the following was recorded:

*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.*

It was confirmed that officers would continue to bring forward any possibilities, as and when they occurred, for consideration and it was requested that members, especially those on the HRTC Planning Committee, highlight to officers any possibilities.

Members requested a meeting date be set for the end of September and Central Bedfordshire Council councillors be invited to co-opt onto the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.38pm

Dated this day of

Chairman