

**Houghton Regis Town Council
New Cemetery Sub Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
19th July 2021 at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllrs: S Thorne Chairman
J Carroll
Y Farrell
R Morgan (Remote attendance)
A Slough

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk

Apologies: Cllr: M Kennedy

Also present: Cllr: E Cooper
S Goodchild
D Jones
T McMahan
P Hamill (CBC)

NC132 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Chairman for the New Cemetery Sub-Committee for 2021/22.

Nominee: Cllr S Thorne Proposed by Cllr Y Farrell
Seconded by Cllr J Carroll

No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Councillor Thorne was duly appointed as Chair of the New Cemetery Sub Committee for the municipal year 2021 - 2022.

NC133 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Vice Chairman for the New Cemetery Sub-Committee for 2021/22.

Nominee: Cllr J Carroll Proposed by Cllr Y Farrell
Seconded by Cllr S Thorne

No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Councillor Carroll was duly appointed as Vice Chair of the New Cemetery Sub Committee for the municipal year 2021 - 2022.

NC134 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Kennedy.

Cllr Morgan attended the meeting remotely. Accordingly, he took part in the discussion but did not vote.

NC135 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

NC136 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

NC137 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2021.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2021.

NC138 COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted the Terms of Reference which relates to this committee.

NC139 OPTION FOR A SHARED SITE WITH DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL (DTC)

Members were advised of a possibility for a joint facility in Dunstable (Cottage Bottom) which had arisen from discussions with CBC and DTC.

Members give this option consideration. Some concerns were expressed relating to:

- Site location in Caddington
- Site some distance from Houghton Regis
- Accessibility of the site by public transport from Houghton Regis
- Localist highway concerns
- Combined predicted burial numbers may put this site into a high risk category for the Environment Agency (EA)
- It was disappointing that a site did not come through during the planning process for the strategic growth areas

Members were advised that no officer consideration had been given as to how a joint facility would work as this was considered premature at this stage.

Members expressed a keenness to be kept up to date with progress on the Cottage Bottom site but felt that due to the reasons stated that this was not a suitable site for a joint facility between HRTC and DTC.

NC140 FEEDBACK FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

Members were advised that feedback from the EA on the land at Grendall Lane had been received.

CDS had advised that the EA has agreed with the proposed monitoring plan, thoughts on zoning of burials and cutting off / rerouting of land drains. Their feedback highlighted that the site would require significant works to make it suitable.

It was confirmed that the T2 on this site had been completed and that the next step would be for a T3 monitoring study to be completed. This would involve onsite boreholes which would be monitored over a 12 month period. The cost of this would be £13,750 - £16,750, dependent on the depth of the boreholes required.

It was confirmed that this decision would be communicated out to residents.

It was felt that this Sub Committee did not need to meet again until the T3 work had been completed unless any other issue arose in the meantime.

Resolved: To proceed with the T3 investigation into the land at Grendall Lane and to fund this from EMR 348, Cemetery.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.40pm

Dated this day of

Chairman