

PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Joint Committee held in the Civic Offices, Fareham on Monday 5 March 2012 at 2.30 pm.

Present

Fareham Borough Council

Councillor Keith Evans
Councillor Leslie Keeble

Gosport Borough Council

Councillor Peter Edgar
Councillor Dennis Wright

Havant Borough Council

Councillor David Collins (Chairman)
Councillor Leah Turner

Portsmouth City Council

Councillor Lynne Stagg

Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies were given on behalf of Cllr Mason

455 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 1) – None.

456 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2011 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12 December 2011 be signed as a correct record.

457 Matters Arising from the Minutes not specifically referred to on the Agenda (AI 4)

458 Clerk's Items (AI 5)

(a) Proposed Crematorium at Bartons Road, Havant

The Deputy Clerk referred to Minute 444 and reported that East Hampshire District Council at its Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 1 March considered the proposal that had been formulated by Southern Co-operatives to build a crematorium off Bartons Road, Havant, and had granted it planning permission.

RESOLVED that the current situation be noted.

(a) Appointment of Deputy Medical Referee

The Deputy Clerk referred to Minute 449 and advised that Dr Katherine Spinks had now been formally appointed as a Deputy Medical Referee by the Secretary of State at Ministry of Justice.

RESOLVED that the formal appointment of Dr Katherine Spinks as a Deputy Medical Referee to Portchester Crematorium be noted.

459 Engineer and Surveyor's Report - Planned Maintenance Programme - Progress Report (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR)

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee notes the contents of the report.

460 Horticultural Consultant's Report (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT)

RESOLVED that the report be received and approved.

461 Manager and Registrar's Report (AI 8)

(a) General Report

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE MANAGER AND REGISTRAR)

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(b) Any other items of topical interest - the Manager and Registrar mentioned in response to questions the effect on Crematorium usage of the mild winter. The Crematorium remained the nation's busiest and the mild winter would be expected to affect Crematoria similarly. A new Crematorium in East Hampshire District near its Havant border is expected to reduce usage at Portchester. A statement reported at the time of the planning application that Portchester struggled to cope with demand was never true and it has always been possible to secure a timely and fitting ceremony. There are differences however between the times within which funeral directors are able to respond to requirements of the families using their service and it appears that on occasion capacity at Portchester has been wrongly given as an excuse for lengthy delays before a funeral director can cope with making arrangements. It may be that reduced demand at Portchester will be able to facilitate longer ceremonies albeit it has been able to meet the needs of bereaved families under current circumstances. A reduction in demand would reduce income and the payments available to the constituent authorities.

**462 Crematorium Mercury Abatement Project –
(a) Project Review Board Report (AI 9a)**

(TAKE IN REPORT OF PROJECT BOARD)

The Engineer and Surveyor updated members and in doing so provided a power point presentation to illustrate the progress of the abatement works.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(b) Electricity Sub-Station – Easement (AI 9b)

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE CLERK)

RESOLVED the four constituent authorities be asked to sign a deed of variation to the present leases of the crematorium to allow Fareham BC to grant an easement and associated rights to the energy supplier of the new sub-station and for similar purposes or other uses as may be approved by the Joint Committee, and that the Clerk to the Joint Committee be authorised to settle the final terms of the Deed for signature by the authorities.

463 Date of Next Meeting (AI 10)

RESOLVED that it be noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 18 June 2012 at 2pm in the Town Hall, Gosport.

The meeting concluded at 3.17pm.

Chairman

SK/JH/me
5 March 2012
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