

14 March 2007

LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Minute Nos. 86 - 97

At the Meeting of the **Llanelli Joint Burial Authority** held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 March 2007 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Chairman)

Cllrs.

D. J. Davies
D. J. Harries
C. C. Lucas

M. E. Prothero
C. E. Richards
E. Smith

Together with Mr Gary Davis, Recycling Sales Officer, Foothold

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr M. Howells.

87. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. C. E. Richards declared an interest in Minute No. 96 because her sister-in-law was employed by the firm of solicitors currently advising the Burial Authority.

88. CEMETERY ENHANCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gary Davis, Recycling Sales Officer of the Foothold Group to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr Davis explained that he was deputising on behalf of Mr M. Williams, Project Officer, the Green Network who was unable to attend the meeting as originally planned and conveyed Mr Williams' apologies to the Committee.

He then proceeded to outline proposals for the enhancement of the cemetery grounds and sought Members views over the possible installation of five benches, made from oak sleepers, two information panels and one wooden signboard.

14 March 2007

Members were informed that the furniture would be provided free of charge because the items had been earmarked as the second phase of the cemetery enhancements. The first phase was completed last year and comprised planting 50 trees throughout the cemetery grounds (Minute No. 50, 14 December 2005 refers).

The only cost to the Burial Authority would be to pay for the five concrete foundations required to accommodate the benches.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Burial Authority accept the offer to install the furniture, which would be provided free of charge via the Green Network;
- (2) The cost of providing the five concrete foundations for the benches be met from general reserves, given that this was additional expenditure not identified in the budget; and
- (3) A sub committee comprising of the Secretary, Chairman and Vice Chairman be granted plenary powers to visit the cemetery grounds to agree upon suitable installation locations for the items of furniture and the outcome be reported back to committee in due course.

Mr Davis withdrew from the meeting.

89. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated) be confirmed and signed as a true record of proceedings

Ordinary Meeting - 14 February 2007

90. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for January 2007 and the provisional report for February 2007 be noted.

91. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for February 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £23,070.07.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

14 March 2007

92. SECTION 11 – EASEMENT OVER COUNTY COUNCIL LAND

Further to Minute No. 51 (13 December 2006), Members considered a letter received from Mr Rhys Davies, Corporate Property, Carmarthenshire County Council, dated 21 February 2007.

The writer commented upon the likely timescale surrounding the drawing up of the Easement and clarified what was covered under the proposed maintenance costs and it was

RESOLVED that the terms of the Easement as previously reported be accepted and that the Secretary notify the County Council to that effect so that solicitors may be formally instructed to proceed with the agreement.

93. INTERNAL AUDIT 2006/2007 – INTERIM REPORT

Members considered the interim report in respect of the Authority's Internal Audit for 2006/2007, compiled by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

The report concluded that there were no significant issues arising that required any further referral for consideration by the Authority.

RESOLVED that the interim report for the Internal Audit 2006/2007 be received and accepted.

94. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Grants and Appointments Manager, Wales Audit Office, dated 5 March 2007.

The writer stated that the Wales Audit Office would like to extend the contract of BDO Stoy Hayward (the Burial Authority's current external auditor) for the foreseeable future and sought the views of the Burial Authority as to whether this was acceptable.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary notify the Wales Audit Office that the Burial Authority had no objection to BDO Stoy Hayward's contract being extended for the foreseeable future.

95. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

14 March 2007

96. LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Cllr C. E. Richards declared an interest in the following matter because her sister-in-law was an employee of the Burial Authority’s solicitors and took no part in the proceedings.

Further to Minute No. 63, the Secretary appraised Members of the level of legal advice and support being received from the Burial Authority’s solicitors and Members views were sought as to whether an alternative practice should be engaged to progress all outstanding legal matters and future legal work.

Following a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Secretary seek a new firm of local solicitors to service the Burial Authority’s existing and future needs; and
- (2) Clarification be sought from the Authority’s current solicitors regarding all outstanding matters affecting Llanelli Crematorium Limited as well as the level of costs incurred thus far and furthermore the firm be notified of the Burial Authority’s intention of seeking redress from the Law Society for failure to act in a timely and responsive manner particularly when in receipt of formal instruction from the Authority.

97. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman congratulated Cllr D. J. Davies on his impending election as Chairman of Llanelli Rural Council in May 2007.

.....

The meeting concluded at 4:40 pm

.....