

CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee held in the Town Hall, Spennymoor, on Wednesday 25 July, 2007, commencing at 5.30 pm being the Annual General Meeting for 2007/2008.

PRESENT: Councillors D E Jackson, J Marr, Mrs S Pitts, F Reynolds,
D J Southwell, A L Thomson, F Walker, Mrs J L Wood and Ms C A Woods.

2155 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed, and accordingly resolved, that Councillor J Marr be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor J Marr in the Chair

2156 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was agreed, and accordingly resolved, that Councillor Ms C A Woods be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

2157 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dickie, Rae and Van Zwanenberg.

2158 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April, 2007, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

2159 JOINT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

It was noted by Members that at Annual Meetings of the City of Durham Council and Spennymoor Town Council, Councillor R G Dickie (Independent) and Councillor Mrs J L Wood (Labour) respectively had been appointed to serve on the Joint Committee thereby replacing Councillor David Bell (Labour) and Councillor Mrs E Summerson (Labour)

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2160 CYCLE OF MEETINGS

(Minutes No 1958 (16 July 2003) and 2115 (25 October 2006) refer)

It was noted by Members that, due to a clash of meetings, it had been requested that the next meeting of the Joint Committee be rescheduled from the 24 October to the 31 October. The venue for the meeting remained unchanged and was to take place in the Council Chamber at Spennymoor Town Hall.

RESOLVED: That the next meeting be held on the 31 October 2007.

2161 INTERNATIONAL BURIAL AND CREMATION CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – 12-14 NOVEMBER 2007

On the usual basis, two places had been reserved at the above Conference to enable the Chairman and the Superintendent and Registrar to attend the event.

RESOLVED: Members endorsed the action taken.

2162 MEMBERS' VISIT TO THE CREMATORIUM

(Minute No 1958 (16 July 2003) and 2100 (19 July 2006) refer)

Following the success of last year's visit to the Crematorium by Members of the constituent Authorities, it was proposed that similar arrangements were made for a visit to take place in November 2007.

RESOLVED: Members approved the action proposed.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

2163 CREMATIONS

The Superintendent and Registrar reported the number of cremations for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007. These were 507 (+ 7 NVF), a decrease of 48 (- 7 NVF) on the same period in the previous year. The total of 507 (+ 7 NVF) included 344 from outside the area of the Joint Committee, with the remaining total being 163 for Durham City.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2164 MEMORIAL GARDEN – SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES

The Superintendent & Registrar reported that during the period 1 April 2007 and 30 June 2007, the following Vase Blocks and Memorial Plaques had been sold:

	<u>Nos Sold</u>
Vase Blocks	15
Large Plaques	28
Small Plaques	<u>8</u>
Total	<u>51</u>

Financial Information – Net of V.A.T.)

Vase Blocks	6,176.30
Large Plaques	7,941.49
Small Plaques	<u>1,395.84</u>
Total	<u>15,513.63</u>

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2165 FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES – MERCURY ABATEMENT SEMINAR

The Superintendent and Registrar attended a Seminar on 28th June which had been held in order to update the profession on the progress being made towards the 50% Mercury Abatement target of 31st December 2012. The Head of The Local Air Pollution Team in DEFRA, Mr Mike Etkind, gave his view on the current position. Overall he had been encouraged that surveys of Crematoria Operators had indicated that the 50% reduction in Mercury Emissions would be met by the required date, however, he was less confident that the rate of actual installations was progressing as quickly as would be necessary to meet the target. Mr Etkind warned Crematoria Operators that the Legislation did have teeth and that if satisfactory progress was not made by the industry, Government would not fail to change the rules to ensure that busy Crematoria have to abate. Details of each Crematorium's progress was being regularly up-dated by CAMEO (Crematoria Abatement of Mercury Emissions Organisation) and reports were being submitted to DEFRA. DEFRA was encouraging all Crematoria Operators to subscribe to CAMEO later this year as CAMEO had been charged by the Government to collate and Audit all Crematoria Emissions in relation to Mercury Abatement.

Crematorium Operators were reminded that they must have advised their local Regulator of their intentions in respect of Mercury Abatement and that Regulators would themselves take

a tough line if Crematoria that have advised that that Abatement Equipment would be installed by 31.12.2012 had failed to do so by that date.

RESOLVED: The CDCJC confirmed their intention to install Mercury Abatement Equipment by 31st December 2012 and the Superintendent and Registrar was to make the necessary arrangements for the CDCJC to join the CAMEO scheme at the appropriate time.

2166 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC – PLANNING

(Minute Nos 2083 (26th April 2006) 2104 (19th July 2006) 2121 (25th October 2006) and 2136 (17th January 2007) refers)

Training was still to be arranged. It had been necessary to wait until the relined Cremators had “bedded in” on the recommendation of the Service Engineers, but the dates were to be set shortly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2167 MEMORIAL GARDEN PHASE III

(Minute Numbers: 2086 (26th April 2006) 2105 (19th July 2006) 2122 (25th October 2006) and 2137 (17th January 2007) refer).

The lowest Tender had been submitted by Cavetto Landscapes in the sum of £176,987.97. Cavetto Landscapes built Phase I and II of the Memorial Garden which was completed to the highest standard and indeed won a Durham County Council Environment Award in 2002.

The contractual arrangements were made by City of Durham Legal Services and signed on 15 June 2007.

Work on site began on Monday 25 June, although excavation works were delayed due to the very wet weather that week. The site works are due to be completed on 20th November 2007.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2168 LIFE AND SOUL GARDEN

A Life and Soul Garden Display had been set up in the Crematorium Waiting Room on 15th May 2007 and was collected on 23rd May 2007. This proved a successful exercise and much interest was shown by visitors to the Crematorium in the project. On 26 June 2007 the Superintendent and Registrar had been invited to Finchale College to view the garden in progress. The garden was to be displayed at the Tatton Park Show, Cheshire, in mid July, and the Gateshead Show at the end of July. It was expected that the Life and Soul Garden would be installed at the Crematorium during November 2007.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2169 RELINE OF CREMATORS

All three Cremators had been relined in April 2007 with the works completed on time and within budget.

During the reline period, six services a day had been held at Durham Crematorium with the Cremations taking place at Mounsett, Darlington and Sunderland Crematoria. A hearse had been hired to enable the coffins to be transferred to the other Crematoria with due dignity. The driving and escort duties had been carried out by the Crematorium Staff.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REPORT OF TREASURER

2170 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07

The Treasurer presented a comprehensive report on the main financial results for the year ended 31 March 2007.

RESOLVED: The Joint Committee approved the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007.

2171 AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06

The Committee was asked to note that the Audit Commission had certified the 2005/06 Statement of Accounts. They had found that the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and that no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern or which they wished to draw to the attention of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting terminated at 5.50 pm.

Chairman