

CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 30 April, 2008, commencing at 5.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Cllrs R G Dickie, D. E Jackson, J Marr, Mrs S J Pitts, F Reynolds, A L Thomson and F Walker.

Councillor J Marr in the Chair

2199 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs D J Southwell, Mrs J L Wood and Ms C A Woods.

2200 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January, 2008, and not 31 October 2007 as indicated on the Agenda for the meeting, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Chairman had agreed to accept, as a matter of urgency and due to the time factor involved, a Supplementary Report in connection with the Cremation and Burial Conference and Exhibition 2008.

2201 CREMATION AND BURIAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2008 NEWCASTLE - 7-9 JULY 2008

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.

2202 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were asked to note the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP by the Audit Commission as auditor to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee. The appointment covered the audit of the accounts for the financial years 2007/8 to 2011/12.

The Audit Commission had also confirmed the appointment of a panel of Audit Commission Officers, a member from which would act as the external auditor to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee in the unlikely event that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP was unable to continue with the appointment. Members of the panel could also assist with, or act solely on, additional work should this become necessary.

RESOLVED: Members noted the information.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

2203 CREMATIONS

The Superintendent and Registrar reported the number of cremations for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008. These were 686 (+ 10 NVF), a decrease of 20 (- 3 NVF) on the same period in the previous year. The total of 686 (+ 10 NVF) included 454 from outside the area of the Joint Committee, with the remaining total being 232 for Durham City.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2204 MEMORIAL GARDEN – SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES

The Superintendent & Registrar reported that during the period 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008, the following Vase Blocks and Memorial Plaques had been sold:

	<u>Nos Sold</u>
Vase Blocks	10
Large Plaques	29
Small Plaques	<u>17</u>
Total	<u>56</u>

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

Vase Blocks	£4,016.65
Large Plaques	£8,156.02
Small Plaques	£2,849.02
Total	<u>£15,021.69</u>

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2205 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC – PLANNING

(Minute Nos 2083 (26 April 2006), 2104 (19 July 2006), 2121 (25 October 2006), 2136 (17 January 2007), 2166 (25 July 2007), 2178 (31 October 2007) and 2187 (23 January 2008) refer)

The Cremator Operator training for the candidates had been continuing well. From 1 April 2008, each candidate was to work 1 full day per week until the examinations which were scheduled for 19 and 20 May, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2206 Memorial Garden - Phase III

(Minute Nos 2086 (26th April 2006), 2105 (19 July 2006), 2122 (25 October 2006), 2137 (17 January 2007), 2167 (25 July 2007), 2179 (31 October 2007) and 2188 (23 January 2008) refer)

A report on the official opening of Phase II of the Memorial Garden which took place on the 25 March, 2008, was submitted. It was expected that Memorials would be available in the new garden from July 2008.

RESOLVED: Members noted the information and gave their congratulations on the outcome of the scheme.

2207 LIFE AND SOUL GARDEN

(Minute Nos 2151 (25 April 2007), 2168 (25 July 2007), 2180 (31 October 2007) and 2189 (23 January 2008) refer)

The progress on site had been slow due to poor weather conditions and staffing problems at Finchale College. The Registrar had been in discussions with Finchale College and had offered assistance to complete the project if required. The Garden was expected to be complete by the end of March 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2208 INDEPENDENT TESTING OF CREMATORS (EPA 1990)

(Minute No 2193 (23 January 2008) refers)

The Cremators were independently tested by Scientifics Air and Emissions Testing Group on 22 to 24 January, 2008.

The Superintendent and Registrar was pleased to advise the Committee that all the results were within the limits as specified in the Secretary of State's guidance rules for Crematoria.

Detailed copies of the reports had been sent to the Environmental Health Office as required under the Terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

IN PRIVATE

SOLVED:

That pursuant to Section 100.A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of the items listed in column 1 below, being reports of the Officers mentioned in column 2 below, on the grounds that if members of the public were present during discussion of these items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined in Section 100.I) of the description indicated in column 3 below:

<u>Column 1</u>	<u>Column 2</u>	<u>Column 3</u>
Crematorium Fees and Charges	Report of Treasurer	Para. 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).
Memorial Garden Fees	Report of Treasurer	Para. 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).
Book of Remembrance	Report of Treasurer	Para. 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).
Scattering of Remains	Report of Treasurer	Para. 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).
Organist Fees	Report of Treasurer	Para. 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The meeting terminated at 5.55 pm.

Chairman