

CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 23 July, 2008, commencing at 5.30 pm being the Annual General meeting for 2008/2009.

PRESENT: Councillors R G Dickie, D E Jackson, J Marr, Mrs S J Pitts, F Reynolds, N Van Zwanenberg, F Walker and Ms C A Woods.

Michael Rove, Finance Manager for Spennymoor Town Council, was introduced to the Committee.

2215 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

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

Councillor Ms C A Woods in the Chair

2216 VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Woods proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman who, in turn, thanked the Committee for all their support during the preceding year.

2217 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

2218 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors D J Southwell, A L Thomson and Mrs J L Wood.

2219 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 April, 2008, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

2220 CREMATIONS

The Superintendent and Registrar reported the number of cremations for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008. These were 640 (+ 10 NVF), an increase of 133 (+ 3 NVF) on the same period in the previous year. The total of 640 (+ 10 NVF) included 444 from outside the area of the Joint Committee, with the remaining total being 196 for Durham City. An explanation of this unexpected increase was given by the Superintendent and Registrar.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2221 MEMORIAL GARDEN – SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES

The Superintendent & Registrar reported that during the period 1 April 2008 and 30 June 2008, the following Vase Blocks and Memorial Plaques had been sold:

	<u>Nos Sold</u>
Vase Blocks	7
Large Plaques	17
Small Plaques	<u>10</u>
Total	<u>34</u>

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

Vase Blocks	£3,039.65
Large Plaques	£5,026.91
Small Plaques	£1,800.84
Total	<u>£9,867.40</u>

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2222 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC – PLANNING

(Minute Nos 2083 (26th April 2006), 2104 (19th July 2006), 2121 (25th October 2006), 2136(17th January 2007), 2166 (25th July 2007), 2178 (31st October 2007), 2187 (23rd January 2008) and 2205 (30th April 2008) refer)

The Superintendent and Registrar reported that all four Cremator Operator Trainees had successfully completed the written and practical examinations and were now fully qualified Cremator Technicians. Congratulations were offered to Mrs Karen Callaghan, Mr Ray Goodson, Mr Christopher Davison and Mr Graham Smith.

The newly qualified Technicians will spend ½ day every six weeks at the Crematorium to keep up their skills.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2223 LIFE AND SOUL GARDEN

(Minute Nos 2151 (25th April 2007), 2168 (25th July 2007), 2180 (31st October 2007), 2189 (23rd January 2008) and 2207 (30th April 2008) refer)

With the improvement in the weather during the past two months, progress had moved on quickly. The official opening ceremony had been arranged for Monday 28 July 2008 at 10.00 am. The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Greville Holland, was to perform the ceremony. In attendance were to be representatives from the Companies that provided sponsorship for the garden, Architects, Contractors and Finchale College. Tea/coffee and biscuits would be served at Mount Oswald Golf Club at 10.30 am. These arrangements were being made jointly by the Community Development Section of the City of Durham Council and the Superintendent & Registrar.

It was hoped that this unique Garden, which won a Silver Award for Finchale College at the Tatton Park Show in 2007, would provide a place for quiet contemplation in a non commercial environment.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2224 STAFF TRAINING

Congratulations were offered to Mrs Lynne Lawton who had passed all units of the European Computer Driving Licence, BCS Level 2 for I.T. users.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2225 CREMATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Cremation Society of Great Britain, had recently published its Annual Survey of Cremations carried out in the United Kingdom during the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.

This total showed that in County Durham there were 5,323 cremations carried out at the three Crematoria: Darlington, Durham and Mountsett, and that Durham (2,273 cremations) carried out 42.7% of those cremations.

The total shows Durham Crematorium to be 46th busiest in the United Kingdom out of 254 Crematoria.

In the Cremation Fees League Table, Durham Crematorium was placed 142nd out of the 254 Crematoria showing that 141 Crematoria charged higher fees.

The cheapest Cremation Fee was at Guernsey Crematorium (£163.00) and the most expensive Harrogate (£585.00).

There were only 29 Crematoria charging more than £500.00 for an adult Cremation Fee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2226 STATUTORY DIRECTION TO ENGLISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES REGULATION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM CREMATORIA

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had exercised powers conferred on him by Regulation 61(1) and (2) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and issued the Environmental Protection (England) (Crematoria Mercury Emissions) Direction 2008, which came into force on 27th June 2008. DEFRA have written to all Chief Executives of English District, Borough and Unitary Authorities informing them of the Direction.

The Direction requires regulatory action to be taken by 25 July 2008 and, as a result, information to be supplied by Crematoria operators by 31 October 2008.

A copy of the Environmental Protection (England) (Crematoria Mercury Emissions) Direction 2008 had been circulated.

The decision to fit abated Cremators and Mercury Filtration plant by the due date, 31st December 2012, was confirmed (Minute No. 2012) 25th July last year.

There is very real concern that the complete demand for new Cremator and equipment filtration equipment will exceed the manufacturing capacity of the industry and delays to meeting Government deadlines will be inevitable.

The consequences for Durham if Cremator and Filtration equipment is not installed by 31st December 2012 is that a Burden Sharing agreement will have to be entered into until such time as the new plant is fully operational. This arrangement could cost the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee £50.00 / cremation, something over £100,000.00 / annum if similar Crematoria figures to the last few years were undertaken.

Officers of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee are to write to the Regulators as required in the schedule before 31st October 2008, and a report will be presented to the October meeting of the Committee.

From October 2008, it will be necessary for the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee to notify the Regulator at least once, before the expiry of every six month period

of the progress being made in fixing a date for compliance with the Mercury Emission requirements.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2227 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

The Treasurer presented a comprehensive report on the main financial results for the year ended 31 March 2008.

RESOLVED: The Joint Committee approved the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2007/08.

2228 AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07

The Committee was asked to note that the Audit Commission had certified the 2006/07 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.

2229 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Councillor Marr raised a question regarding the provision of information to Spennymoor Town Council regarding the potential transfer of management responsibilities. The Clerk gave an explanation regarding the information which had been sent to the Town Clerk for Spennymoor Town Council in the preceding few days.
- (2) The Committee raised concern regarding governance and management of the Crematorium post LGR vesting day. The Clerk was to arrange appropriate discussions with County Council officers in order to investigate future arrangements.

The meeting terminated at 6.05 pm.

Chairman