

CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 22 October, 2008, commencing at 5.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors R G Dickie, D E Jackson, J Marr, F Walker, Mrs J L Wood and Ms C A Woods.

Councillor Ms C A Woods in the Chair

2230 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Reynolds and Thomson.

2231 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 July, 2008, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

2232 CREMATIONS

The Superintendent and Registrar reported the number of cremations for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 September 2008. These were 518 (+ 11 NVF + 1 Body Part), an increase of 4 (+ 1 Body Part) on the same period in the previous year. The total of 518 (+ 11 NVF + 1 Body Part) included 354 from outside the area of the Joint Committee, with the remaining total being 164 for Durham City.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2233 MEMORIAL GARDEN – SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES

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

	<u>Nos Sold</u>
Vase Blocks	12
Large Plaques	24
Small Plaques	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>42</u>

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

Vase Blocks	£5,697.75
Large Plaques	£7,598.20
Small Plaques	£1,207.92
Total	<u>£14,503.87</u>

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2234 Statutory Direction to English Local Authorities: Regulation of Air Pollution from Crematoria

This Statutory Direction requires that the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee submits a report to the Regulator by 31 October 2008, indicating what actions have been taken towards the installation of Mercury Abatement Equipment and an outline of the plans in place to meet the deadline of 31 December 2012. The report will be forwarded to DEFRA who will use the information provided to judge the progress of the Cremation Industry towards achieving the set targets in Mercury Emissions. Failure to provide reports within the required timescales (every six months) could result in the Licence to operate the Crematorium being revoked.

The Superintendent and Registrar submitted to the meeting the required report which had been prepared by the officers of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee for consideration.

The Clerk gave an update in respect of the Local Government Review process and progress regarding bereavement services.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) Members agreed the report and that a copy be sent to the Crematorium Regulator by 31 October 2008.
 - (ii) The Clerk to write to Durham County Council inviting their Cabinet Members, or appropriate Portfolio Holder, to meet the Joint Crematorium Committee to discuss relevant issues.
 - (iii) The Clerk and the Superintendent and Registrar to prepare a report on relevant options in respect of mercury abatement equipment to be presented to the next meeting, or a meeting specially convened to consider the report dependent on timescales.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

2235 DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUSES TO CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES

On 23 July 2008, the Treasurer reported that the Crematorium had generated a surplus of £539,811 during 2007/08 which was £154,472 more than the revised estimate. This increased surplus was included in the appropriate reserve for distribution, if desired, to the constituent Authorities.

It was possible that the Crematorium may generate a surplus greater than that estimated during 2008/09, due to a higher number of cremations in the first six months and a delay in the opening of the planned new Crematorium in Wear Valley. Members noted, however, that any increased income may be offset by increased energy costs.

It would therefore be prudent to put in place arrangements to distribute the increased surplus arising from 2007/08 and to facilitate a further distribution of any increased surplus that may arise during 2008/09.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that:

- i) a further distribution of £120,000 to the constituent Authorities, with £100,000 to be paid to the City of Durham and £20,000 to Spennymoor Town council;
- ii) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee be given delegated powers to agree any further distribution to the constituent Authorities if the surplus for 2008/09 is likely to be greater than that estimated.

2236 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Statement of Accounts

The Appointed Auditor to the Crematorium had asked that the amount shown for total cash and investments as at 31 March 2008 be amended because of changes in accounting practice. The original statement showed a figure of £889,064. However, this included an interest payment that was not received until early April and cheques that were issued before 31 March 2008 which did not clear until after that date. Once these adjustments are made, the revised figure will be £884,811.

RESOLVED: The Joint Committee noted and approved the change.

The meeting terminated at 6.25 pm.

Chairman