

CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee held in the Town Hall, Spennymoor, on Wednesday 25 March, 2009, commencing at 5.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors D E Jackson, F Reynolds, D J Southwell, Ms C A Woods, J Marr and F Walker

Councillor Ms C A Woods in the Chair

2250 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January, 2009, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2251 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R G Dickie and A L Thomson.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

2252 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES, BOURNEMOUTH 6-8 JULY 2009

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.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

2253 CREMATIONS

The Superintendent and Registrar reported the number of cremations for the period 1 January 2009 to 28 February 2009. These were 519 (+ 6 NVF), an increase of 32 (+ 1 NVF) on the same period in the previous year. The total of 519 (+ 6 NVF) included 332 from outside the area of the Joint Committee, with the remaining total being 187 for Durham City.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2254 MEMORIAL GARDEN – SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES

The Superintendent & Registrar reported that during the period 1 January 2009 to 28 February 2009, the following Vase Blocks and Memorial Plaques had been sold:

	<u>Nos Sold</u>
Vase Blocks	6
Large Plaques	11
Small Plaques	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>18</u>

Financial Information – (Net of VAT)

Vase Blocks	£2,386.55
Large Plaques	£3,022.29
Small Plaques	<u>£ 230.00</u>
Total	<u>£ 5,638.84</u>

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2255 INDEPENDENT TESTING OF CREMATORS
(Minute Number 2242 (21 January 2009) refers)

The Independent Testing of the Cremators as required under the Terms of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) was carried out during the period of 8– 9 January 2009 by Catalyst Environmental.

The Superintendent and Registrar was pleased to report that all three cremators were fully compliant with the prescribed emission limits for crematoria. Copies of the report had been forwarded to the Environmental Health Manager.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2256 CREMATORIA ABATEMENT MERCURY ORGANISATION (CAMEO)

CAMEO is the National Scheme which has been developed to enable the Cremation Industry to meet the Statutory demands of Mercury Abatement in the most effective manner, both for Cremation Authorities and the bereaved.

CAMEO is charged to gather information required by the Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and the Scottish Government, to monitor progress towards the 50% reduction in mercury emissions and to provide certificates of compliance which will be required by Crematorium Regulators.

The Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee has now registered with CAMEO which will be of assistance as the deadline of 31 December 2012 for installation of Mercury Abatement plant approaches.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

IN PRIVATE

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 100.1) of the description indicated in column 3 below:

Column 1

Crematorium Fees and Charges

Column 2

Report of Treasurer

Column 3

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).

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

2257 CREMATORIUM FEES AND CHARGES

2258 MEMORIAL GARDEN FEES

2259 BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

2260 SCATTERING OF REMAINS

2261 ORGANIST FEES

2262 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor Woods informed the meeting that she had received a letter from The Clerk tendering his resignation, effective from 31 March 2009. The Members of the Committee expressed their thanks for the sterling work David Marrs had undertaken as Clerk during the last year and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to David Marrs.

RESOLVED: That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, sends a letter of appreciation to David Marrs.

2. The Treasurer advised Members that it would be prudent for the Committee to appoint a Clerk on an interim basis until the next meeting and that, as a contingency given the uncertainty surrounding Local Government Review, the Committee may wish to agree the appointment of a Treasurer should a vacancy occur in this post on a similar basis. The Treasurer advised Members that

Lesley Davies, the Acting Head of Legal Services at Durham County Council, and Stuart Crowe, the Corporate Director Resources at Durham County Council, would be willing to undertake these roles.

RESOLVED: (i) That Lesley Davies be appointed Clerk with effect from 1 April 2009 on an interim basis.
(ii) That, in the event of a vacancy occurring for the post of Treasurer, Stuart Crowe be appointed Treasurer on an interim basis.

3. The Treasurer informed the Joint Committee of the resignation of the current external auditors and the intention of the Audit Committee to appoint new external auditors in April 2009. She advised the Committee that the Audit Commission were considering appointing as external auditors the appointed auditor for the City of Durham.

RESOLVED: Members of the Committee expressed their support for this proposal.

4. The Chair informed Members that the Cabinet at the County Council would consider the appointment of Members to this Committee at its meeting tomorrow.

RESOLVED: Members noted the information.

5. The Superintendent and Registrar for the Crematorium gave a brief report on proposals to redevelop the Crematorium and replace the cremators. He informed Members that he had contacted Martin Critchwell Architects, who had designed many new crematoria and the redevelopment of existing crematoria. Martin Critchwell had visited Durham Crematorium and had put forward proposals for a feasibility study for the redevelopment of the Crematorium, including the replacement of the cremators at an estimated cost of approximately £3m, much less than the original feasibility study commissioned by the Joint Committee. Members recognised the need for a revised feasibility study and supported it in principle. However, they asked that a detailed report be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and Registrar present a detailed report to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

6. Councillor Woods tendered her resignation as Chair to the meeting. She thanked all Members for their help and support.

Councillor Woods proposed that Councillor Marr be elected as Chair. This was supported by all Members.

RESOLVED: That Councillor John Marr be elected Chair.

Councillor Marr Chaired the remainder of the meeting.

7. Councillor Marr thanked Councillor Woods for her sterling work and congratulated her on her election as a County Councillor.

Councillor Marr also thanked all Members of Durham City Council for their support and the friendly working relationship he had enjoyed with them. These views were endorsed by the representatives from Spennymoor Town Council.

Councillors Reynolds and Southwell thanked the representatives from Spennymoor Town Council and gave their best wishes for the future.

The meeting terminated at 6.10 pm.

Chairman

