

11 November 2019

BANDON HILL CEMETERY JOINT COMMITTEE

11 November 2019 at 6.30 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Stuart Collins (Chair), and Councillors Edward Joyce, Barry Lewis and Hamida Ali

ABSENT Councillor(s) Muhammad Sadiq, Stuart King, Alison Butler and Oliver Lewis

11. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Stuart Collins, welcomed those present.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor King, Councillor Butler and Councillor Lewis.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

16. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Solomon Akuffo, Head of Finance, Engagement and Advice, presented the report.

Members raised concerns about the substantial amount of money in reserves. In response to questions, officers advised that the cemetery is currently selling reclaimed graves, therefore they will need to rely on the reserve funds in the future to maintain the grounds, once these sites have been exhausted. Officers also confirmed that they have identified a number of areas within the cemetery which are not in use and could be allocated for new grave space, once the current allocations are full.

Members asked for a report to be brought to the next committee, detailing long-term spending plans, particularly once reclaimed sites have been used up.

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It was noted that members were concerned about the proposed rise in fees and charges, however the amendment was voted through on the basis that a benchmark exercise be conducted in the summer before any further adjustment to fees and charges are considered.

RESOLVED: that

1. The forecast financial outturn for 2019/20 be noted
2. The budget for 2020/21 be approved
3. The fees and charges for 2020/21 be approved

17. REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR

Mark Dalzell, Head of Parks and Open Spaces and Adam Brind, Contract Officer, presented the report.

Members discussed the replacement of the fence and questioned if external funding streams had been explored to fund it. Officers clarified that external funding had been looked into, however as the cemetery is managed by a committee holding a budget, they are not eligible for many of these funds. Officers also agreed to circulate a photograph of the proposed fence to members.

Members expressed concerns over the proposed cost of redecorating the chapel, and requested that the recommendation be deferred so that officers can present three quotes to the committee at the next meeting for their approval.

RESOLVED: that

1. The purchase of a new music player, at a cost of £329, be funded
2. The replacement of the wooden fence to the front boundary to improve the appearance and security of the cemetery, as a result of external funding not being available, and to continue to repair the fences on the other boundaries, at a cost of between £17,000 and £37,000 be funded
3. Tree work, following the recent inspection, at a cost of £ 17,283.89, be funded

18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 7.06 pm

Chair:
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Date:
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