

THE BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee held at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Wednesday, 20th June, 2001.

PRESENT

for East Staffordshire Borough Council

Councillor T. M. Dawn
Councillor J. E. Galbraith
Councillor P. Haynes
Councillor Ms. A. White

for South Derbyshire District Council

Councillor W. Dunn
Councillor J. T. Ford
Councillor R. W. Southern
Councillor Mrs. H. K. Wheeler

Miss L. Kelly (Retiring Clerk), Mr. C. Ward (Clerk), Mr. G. Moss (Treasurer), Mr. P. Shaddock (Crematorium Manager) and Mr. P. G. Davies (Committee Clerk) were also present.

Councillor Mrs. J. Mead and Ms. R. McGoldrick (Customer Services Officer – South Derbyshire District Council) were also present.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. E. J. Staples.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 –
MEMBERSHIP OF JOINT COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, the Clerk advised that there were no changes in the membership of the Joint Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:

That Councillor J. T. Ford be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved:

That Councillor T. M. Dawn be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September, 2000 were approved and signed as a correct record.

REPORT OF THE CREMATORIUM MANAGER

(CM)

(a) Statistics

The Crematorium Manager submitted statistical information on the Crematorium since it came into operation. The Joint Committee noted that between the opening of the Crematorium on 18th March, 1975 and 11th June, 2001 there had been a total of 30,801 cremations.

(b) Survey Analysis

The Joint Committee received, for information, survey analysis from the applicants for cremation (usually the main mourners).

(c) Improved Access for the Disabled

The Crematorium Manager reported that improved access to the Carnarvon Chapel had been provided for wheelchair users. Access for wheelchair users to the Book of Remembrance had also been improved with the provision of a safety rail by the door to the floral display room.

The Joint Committee noted that consultation was taking place with printers regarding the provision of large print funeral service books.

(d) The Millennium Wood Sculpture

The artist Rose Garrard had started work on the sculpture. It was hoped that the sculpture would be installed in July/August, 2001.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

(Clerk)

The Clerk submitted a Report pointing out that by Clause 20 of the Agreement dated 1st April, 1974 the Joint Committee was required to send to each of the Constituent Authorities a Report on the operation of the Joint Committee during the year.

The Joint Committee noted that Miss Lynne Kelly was standing down as Clerk and would be replaced by Mr. Clarence Ward. Mr. Gareth Moss had also replaced Mr. Godfrey Eland as Treasurer.

Resolved:

- (1) That subject to the inclusion of a reference to the Officer changes the Annual Report be approved for submission to each of the Constituent Authorities;
- (2) That the Joint Committee place on record its thanks to Miss Kelly for her work as Clerk over the past two years.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL

Councillor Ms. A. White presented her report to the Joint Committee. She outlined the progress which had been made on the Best Value Review of fees/charges and comparative running costs. The Scrutiny Panel's report on this initial review would be completed in September and presented to the next Meeting of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee acknowledged that Bretby compared very favourably with other Crematoria and Members thanked the staff for the innovative and flexible manner in which they carried out their duties.

Resolved:

That the Report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel be approved.

ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED

The Joint Committee noted that in the light of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and following consultation with wheelchair users, investigations were being carried out into the possibility of providing improved access to the following areas:

- The Crematorium Office
- The toilets by the Carnarvon waiting-room

STAFFING

The Chairman reported that following the birth of her baby, Lyn Handsaker (Part-time Clerical Officer) had resigned from her post. The position was being advertised.

Resolved:

That the Clerk send Lyn a letter of congratulations and best wishes for the future.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the Joint Committee be held on Wednesday, 28th November, 2001 at 3.00pm at the Civic Offices, Swadlincote.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following item as it would be likely, in view of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before the item on the Agenda.

PRIVATE MINUTE

Chairman