

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

PRESENT Cllr P Ruffles, In the Chair

Councillors P Boyle, Mrs B Haddock, M McCormick, Mrs S Newton
and R Willis

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Nina L. Villa, Town Clerk
Ms T Carpenter, Civic Administration Manager

Note: In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Cllr Ruffles chaired the meeting.

398. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N Wilson (Unwell)

399. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

400. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2014 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chairman was authorised to sign same.

401. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Cemetery Burial Space

The Town Clerk confirmed that so far she had not been able to gauge any workable or useful methods for maximising burial space, however it was confirmed that officers were keeping themselves fully informed regarding any new legislation and methods being considered by other Councils.

Cemetery Mess Area

It had not been possible to source any cost effective methods for reinforcing the security of the mower/equipment shed, however officers were requested to liaise with the police to ascertain whether equipment marking and tracking would be possible.

Wall adjacent to St Andrew's Church

It was confirmed that Officers at East Herts Council were still investigating ownership of the wall, but were also considering funding options.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The action sheet be noted.

402. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

403. ALLOTMENTS – STATISTICS AND MAINTENANCE

The Committee received a report detailing the latest statistics for the Council's allotment sites, and also maintenance work which had been carried out on the sites.

It was noted that there were a number of vacancies, particularly on the Cromwell Road site and the Committee requested analysis of the reasons for the plots being relinquished.

A discussion took place regarding allotment concessions and the Town Clerk was requested to bring a report to a future meeting setting out scenarios and all the options for either the retention or extension of the concession.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

404. ALLOTMENTS – MUDLARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Committee received a report from Mudlarks regarding the recent activities of the project.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

405. NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

The Committee received a report regarding the recent activities of the North Road Plotolders Group which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

406. LOVELY GRUB GARDEN

The Committee received a report of the work of the Lovely Grub Garden.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

407. CEMETERY AND CLOSED CHURCHYARDS - STATISTICS FOR BURIALS AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

The Committee received a report outlining the recent burials and interment of ashes statistics at the Cemetery along with details of the maintenance work programme.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee of errors in burial records and interments in the Cemetery that occurred in the 1970's and which were now creating some issues for officers in that additional burials were required in plots which were no longer available. So far, the issues have been resolved amicably to a point, however there remained a possibility of further problems should the Diocese not approve a requested exhumation for transfer to another burial plot. It was confirmed that the current systems were kept in a more disciplined fashion and such errors were unlikely to occur in the current circumstances.

Concern was expressed that some of the recently installed railings at North Road Cemetery were showing signs of rust. The Grounds staff were asked to investigate and ensure repair.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

408. CEMETERY FEES

The Committee had received a report outlining a proposed increase in burial fees by 20%, which was recommended by the Committee in February 2014.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Committee notes the report.
2. The Committee approves an increase of 20% for burial fees with effect from 1 April 2015

409. SUB COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEES

Hertford Youth Town Council

The Committee had previously received copies of the minutes of the Youth Town Council meetings held on 26 November 2014 and 28 January 2015.

The Committee was pleased to note that the Youth Town Council had been happy to support the installation costs for the benches in Parliament Square to assist the Street Pastors.

A discussion took place regarding the future composition of the Youth Council and a possible change to the Constitution to address issues regarding attendance and interest among the young people. The Committee felt that this matter should be addressed by the new Council after the Local Council elections in May 2015.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 26 November 2014 and 28 January 2015.

410. FINANCE - THIRD QUARTER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2014/15

The Committee received a report detailing the first half income and expenditure for the Community Services Committee 2014/15.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the income and expenditure to 31 December 2014.

This being the last Committee meeting of the current electoral term, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the two chairmen, Cllr Wilson and Cllr McCormick, who had served in this administration.

The meeting closed at 2030