

**Report of meeting of Cemetery Forum held in
Council Chamber, Old School on 31st May 2011**

Present; Councillor E Williams – Chairman

Councillors; E Hacker
Mrs A James
R Gant
R Austin
R Downe
Mrs A Matthews
Mrs S Bagstaff
G John

Apologies were received from;

Councillor Mrs M Lane
Councillor D Lane
Councillor K Geary

2) Agenda Brief re Plot C

Forum members had previously been circulated with a copy of an Agenda Brief regarding the proposed exploratory digs within Plot C. The Agenda Brief detailed a number of proposed options that the Town Clerk had received from Mr Mark Lodwick, Portable Antiquities Finds Co-ordinator from St Fagans.

Councillor Downe informed Forum members that the previously Town Clerk had marked the Cemetery books to ensure that the top row in Plot C by the wall should not be used. Councillor John added that following the Cemetery visit he and Councillor Downe had with Mr S Harris, the contracted grave digger, Mr Harris had confirmed he had concerns when he first started digging as the soil was soft. Councillor Downe concluded that it is a belief that previous burials in that section had taken place along a wall.

RECOMMENDED: That Mr Harris be contacted and asked to do a test dig across the second row down from the wall in the remaining section of Plot C.

3) Agenda Brief re Rules and Regulations, Ornaments and Plastic Flowers

Forum members had previously been circulated with a copy of an Agenda Brief regarding the amendment to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations for burial depths, memorials and ornaments and plastic flowers.

The Town Clerk informed Forum members that following advice from the ICCM the burial depths we currently state should be amended. Councillor Downe informed Forum

members that he believes it had previously been resolved that no triple depths be allowed in the future.

RECOMMENDED: That the Cemetery Rules and Regulations be amended stating ‘the Town Council will no longer allow new graves for three interments’.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That the burial depths be amended to single interments to be dug to a depth of 5ft 6in, and double interments to be dug to a depth of 7ft.

The Town Clerk asked Forum members permission that two new clauses be included in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations regarding the installation of Memorials within the Cemetery, to allow for the introduction of a booking in register for monumental masons.

RECOMMENDED: That the two new clauses regarding Memorials within the Cemetery be included in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk obtains pamphlets, for kerbs and edging, from the 3 memorial masons who use the Cemetery the most and bring them to Full Town Council for further discussions.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk writes to all the grave owners who have installed their own memorials reminding them of the rules regarding the size of their graves being 7ft x 3ft, and ask them to ensure their plots comply.

Forum members discussed their recent site visit to the Cemetery where they were shocked to see some of the items appearing on graves, and the amount of soil and stones appearing along the wall.

RECOMMENDED: That new rules be added to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations;

- i) Flowers are allowed on graves but no other ornaments.
- ii) That Council staff can remove any unsightly ornaments or flowers at any time.
- iii) That ornaments will be allowed to be placed on a child’s grave subject to prior written permission from the Full Town Council.

Forum members discussed the current graves within the Cemetery and some of the items that have appeared on them.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk writes and asks those grave owners who have any ornaments, other than flowers, on their graves and ask them to remove them.

Forum members discussed the amount of soil and rubble that is appearing along the wall by Plot C.

RECOMMENDED: That a letter be sent to the owners of the graves in the first and second row of Plot C, and see if they can shed light on to where the soil and rubble have come from.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk monitors the current child's grave for a year and if the ornaments are still there write to the owner of the grave.

Councillor Mrs Bagstaff vacated the Council Chamber.

4) Agenda Brief re Scattering of Ashes

Forum members had previously been circulated with an agenda brief regarding the Town Clerks concern that the Cremation Circle is filling up, and that one quarter of this Circle was allocated to scattering of ashes. Following the Cemetery site visit 4 areas within the Cemetery were earmarked as possible locations for Scattering of Ashes. Councillor Downe and Councillor Austin informed Forum members that they believed, when the Memorial Wall was built a flower bed was to be dug along the base of the wall, to allow for the scattering of ashes.

RECOMMENDED: That a flower bed be dug 1 metre from the Memorial wall at a width of 1 metre to allow for the scattering of ashes and the planting of roses. That the gardener/handyman be asked to dig out this flower bed.