

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE held at the Crematorium, Barnstaple on Friday 3rd August 2018 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Representing North Devon District Council

Councillors Edgell, Jones, Lane, Moores and Yabsley (Chairman)

Representing Torridge District Council

Councillors Dezart, S.Inch, T.Inch and Pennington.

Officers

Treasurer, Crematorium Manager, Secretary and Accountant

(a) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Langmead and R. McCormack (Head of Operational Services)

(b) MINUTES

(i) RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2018 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(ii) Matters Arising

(A) Ground Improvements

Councillor Dezart asked if Funeral Directors had been informed of the ground improvements.

The Crematorium Manager stated that he had not informed Funeral Directors of the ground improvements but he would do so.

(c) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

(d) CREMATORIUM MATTERS

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Crematorium Manager (previously circulated).

i) Achievements

It was noted:

- A) That Devon County Council had installed a 'spring box' at the entrance to the crematorium to remove the constant flow of water emanating from the road.
- (B) That the fence at the top of the bank separating the two car-parks had been completed. This maintained a balance of privacy whilst enabling mourners in the upper car-park to see an approaching hearse.

ii) Crematorium Figures

The Cremation figures were noted.

The Crematorium Manager reported that the July cremation figure of 133 had been confirmed

iii) Larkbear

That the intended site meeting with the developer to discuss the Crematorium's access requirements had not been arranged, due to officer changes within the planning dept.

The Crematorium Manager reported that he understood that DCC did not support a rising bollard.

iv) Refurbishment of Aspen Chapel

It was noted that changes to the software used in the specification writing had introduced a small delay. The anticipated commencement of works was now late September/early October. This should enable works to be completed before the busy December period.

v) Additional Cremation Service Options

It was noted that following the last meeting the Crematorium Manager had obtained the following additional information regarding the demand for more basic funeral service provision, possibly supporting a reduced cost option.

The table below showed the number of early morning limited services for the last 3 years during April-July.

	2016`	2017	2018
April	6	7	13
May	5	7	9
June	5	10	8
July	9	9	7
Total	25	33	37

Enquiries with one Funeral Director that started their 'low-cost' scheme in June indicated that in the first 7-weeks of operating 5 such services were taken to Exeter. Their adjacent branches sent a further 4 or 5. There had been a small drop in services at the crematorium since June of 4 services compared to the previous year.

It was agreed that consideration of the matter be deferred to the charges/fees Joint Committee meeting in February 2019 and that the Crematorium Manager in the interim continue to seek information regarding demand and intended migration to Exeter.

(e) PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 1 2018/19

The Joint Committee considered and noted a report by the Treasurer (previously circulated) regarding the performance for Quarter 1 April to June 2018/19.

That clarification of the increase in business rates be reported to the next meeting.

That an updated predicted cost for the Phase B project be circulated to Members

Chairman

The meeting ended at 2.48 p.m.