



HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Peel Street, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY

Town Mayor: **Cllr M.S. Kennedy**

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Town Clerk: **Clare Evans**

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28th June 2019

To: Members of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee

Cllrs: S Thorne (Chair) J Carroll, Y Farrell, M S Kennedy, R Morgan and T Welch.

(Copies to other Councillors for information)

Notice of Meeting

You are hereby summoned to a Meeting of the **New Cemetery Sub-Committee** to be held at the Council Offices, Peel Street on **8th July 2019** at **6.00pm**.

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Clare Evans
Town Clerk

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**
- 2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with approved Standing Orders 1(e)-1(l) Members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.

The total period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 15 minutes and an individual member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

- 3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of any such interest.

Members are invited to submit any requests for Dispensations for consideration.

- 4. MINUTES**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2019.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2019.

5. CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

At the New Cemetery Sub Committee meeting on 23rd April 2019 the following resolution was passed:

That no further speculative enquiries were to be undertaken until officers have determined the likely size and type of facility required, using data regarding expected mortality rates for the town and types of funerals expected for a period of up to 50 years. And that this data information be reported at the July meeting.

Members are provided with the following advice:

Size

The current electorate of Houghton Regis is approximately 12,500, this equates to a population of approximately 18,700.

By 2030/35 it is anticipated that the population may have doubled.

Ideal cemetery duration

It is suggested that it is desirable for a new cemetery to offer interment options for at least a 50 year period.

Facilities within a cemetery

These should include: ashes plots, burial plots, internal circulation infrastructure, car parking, water and refuse area.

Ashes / burial ratio

Based on a population of 18,700 we have approximately 50 interments per year. This is broken down into new body grave burials, grave re-openers for a second interment, new ashes and ashes re-openers. Taken as an average over the last 3 years, there were 64 ashes interments and 86 burials. This gives an interment ratio of 2 ashes to 3 burials (approx). Considering the population growth, it is estimated that by 2030/35 there would be the demand for approximately 100 interments per year in Houghton Regis. This would equate to 33 ashes interments and 66 burial interments.

Area

Geological data is available free of charge through the following website

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

This provides surface geology and borehole data.

Generally the geology of Houghton Regis is more favourable in the north of the parish. However it is likely that any area within the parish would be required to provide environmental mitigation measures due to the geology of the area and the stringent requirements of the Environment Agency.

Land requirements

The first acre of a cemetery can typically offer 700 interment spaces as ancillary facilities also need to be provided. Subsequent acres can offer approximately 800 interment spaces per acre. Based on a 50 year requirement the council would be looking ideally for a 2.5acre site. This equates around 2 full size football pitches or a

bit larger than the size of the current cemetery including the old section.

Development costs are approximately £120,000 per acre plus land costs. Development costs can be phased to an extent over the lifespan of the cemetery.

Land costs start at around £26,000 / acre for paddock land with the likelihood of non commercial development. Land costs increase from this figure depending of the development value of the land.

Recommendation: To note the aspiration of securing a new cemetery site of approximately 2.5 acres.

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**Houghton Regis Town Council
New Cemetery Sub-Committee
28th May 2019 at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllrs: S Thorne Chair
J Carroll
Y Farrell
M S Kennedy
R Morgan
T Welch

Officers: Debbie Marsh Corporate Services Manager
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Also present: Cllrs: D Jones
K Wattingham

NC100 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Members were invited to put forward nominations for Chair of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee.

Nominee: Cllr Thorne Nominated by: Cllr Farrell
Seconded by: Cllr Morgan

On being put to the vote Cllr Thorne was elected as Chair of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee.

NC101 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Members were invited to put forward nominations for Vice-Chair of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee.

Nominee: Cllr Welch Nominated by: Cllr Kennedy
Seconded by: Cllr Carroll

On being put to the vote Cllr Welch was elected as Vice-Chair of New Cemetery Sub-Committee.

NC102 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

NC103 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

NC104 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting held on the 23rd April 2019.

Members noted that the agenda had been detailed as a working party rather than a sub-committee and therefore did not allow for questions from the public.

Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting held on the 23rd April 2019 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

NC105 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference relevant to this sub committee.

Resolved: To note the information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.07pm

Dated this 8th day of July 2019

Chairman