

Malmesbury and St Paul Malmesbury Without Joint Burial Committee

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Joint Burial Committee held in the Cemetery Chapel on Monday 28th May 2008 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr A Woodcock – Chairman
Cllrs C Vernon, B Ingham, R Lee, I Henderson, J Poole,
P Goldstone

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Lawton

203. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

203.1 Cllr Henderson proposed and Cllr Poole seconded Cllr Ingham. All were in favour, Cllr Ingham was duly elected to serve for the next two years.

204. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

204.1 Cllr Vernon proposed and Cllr Poole seconded Cllr Goldstone. All were in favour. Cllr Goldstone was duly elected.

205. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

205.1 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Councils (Model Code of Conduct) order 2007

205.2 Cllr Woodcock declared his interest in Mathews Undertakers and did not take part in the open session.

Several members of the public attended the meeting and wished to make a statement regarding the removal of kerbs. The meeting was therefore suspended and went in to open session.

The Chairman informed the members of the public that they may make a statement to the committee, but the latter would not enter in to debate. If they had specific issues that required a response, then they should put it in writing.

Mr Beesley stated that the recently positioned kerbs on his grandmother's grave dated back to 1992 and that they had been away for refurbishment. He had been asked to remove them but was adamant that they should remain. The Chairman went on to explain the current policy for the maintenance of the cemetery, which included the removal of kerbstones wherever possible. Although regulations banning installation of kerbstones had been in force for the cemetery extension since Sep 1999, revised regulations were introduced in May 2005 to cover the whole of the cemetery. Since the latter time, no new kerbstones have been allowed and all persons installing them have been, or will be, asked to remove them. (Note: The position regarding kerbs

installed between Sep 1999 and May 2005 has not yet been formally resolved). The Chairman said that the committee noted Mr Beesley's comments.

Mr Hazel said he had never been notified of the committee's intention to remove kerbs from a family grave. It was explained that very wide publicity was given to the matter some years ago both in the local press and by question and answer sessions held by the Chairman on two separate occasions on a Saturday in the cemetery chapel. The public were invited to attend through notices and the local press. Notices were also placed on each individual grave of the intention to remove kerbstones at least 6 months in advance of the work taking place. A number of articles concerning the subject had appeared in the local press. The Chairman said that the committee noted Mr Hazel's comments.

There was further general discussion about kerbstone removal and cemetery landscaping.

The Chairman closed the open discussion session and reconvened the meeting.

206. MINUTES

206.1 Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2008 be approved and adopted.

207. MATTERS ARISING

207.1 The Clerk had contacted the Home Office who passed the enquiry on to the Ministry of Justice.

207.2 Chairman to provide editorial for web site

208. FINANCIAL REPORT

208.1 The Clerk gave a detailed statement to April 2008 and informed the meeting that they were reconciled with the bank.

Balances at 30th April 2008 Deposit £3395.80, Current £4433.97, Petty Cash £21.38

209. CORRESPONDENCE - None

210. THE CHAPEL

210.1 The committee discussed the future of the chapel including the possibility of using it as a store, renting it out or demolishing. Resolved that the future of the chapel be a major and continuing item on future agenda.

211. THE CEMETERY

211.1 Resolved that the clerk obtains 3 additional keys to the toilet.

211.2 Malmesbury Glazing to repair a window in the toilet, damage caused by vandalism.

211.3 A tour of the cemetery took place. The Chairman asked members to give thought to a location for a rose garden of remembrance.

211.4 It was noted by the members that the cemetery grounds looked neat and tidy and well kept. The clerk was asked to thank the grounds men for their continued hard work.

212. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

22 September 2008 in the Malting Room (formerly the Council Chamber)

17th November 2008 in the Malting Room

Signed

Chairman

DRAFT