

MERTON AND SUTTON JOINT CEMETERY BOARD
18 FEBRUARY 2010

(19:15 TO 20:45)

PRESENT: Councillors Patricia Lewis (In the Chair), Margaret Brierly, Rod Scott and Ron Wilson (Merton)
Councillors John Drage, Gerry Jerome and Peter Wallis (Sutton)

ALSO PRESENT: Grant Miles (Head of Finance – LBM), Mark Robinson (Registrar), Howard Joy (Consultant Surveyor), Colin Millar (Clerk to the Board), Mark Humphries and Richard Ladbrook (LBM Facilities Management), Doug Napier (LBM Environmental Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cliff Carter

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY 2009 (Agenda item 3)

The Clerk to the Board confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Chief Financial Officers of each of the constituent councils in line with minute 7(2). Neither council had responded with any concerns.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July are agreed as a correct record.

2 INTERMENT STATISTICS (Agenda item 4)

NOTED

3 BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 AND REVENUE ESTIMATES 2010/11 (Agenda item 5)

Grant Miles undertook to look into details of the variances on pensions and vehicles and plant maintenance.

RESOLVED: (1) That the current budgetary position for 2009/10 based on the 3rd quarter's budgetary Monitoring 2009/10 be noted.

(2) The Revenue Estimates for 2010/2011 as submitted be approved.

(3) That the precepts for the financial year ended 31st March 2011 be set at zero.

(4) That the interim pay award be implemented by the Treasurer, in consultation with the Clerk to the Board, for the groups of staff covered by each separate agreement, or negotiating body.

(5) That the scale of fees and charges detailed within Appendix E is approved.

(6) That the board approve the inclusion of a capital scheme of £2m to fund the extension and development of the cemetery, be funded by borrowing, and to be repaid over 25 years as set in paragraph 2.6

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4 EXTENSION OF THE CEMETERY (Agenda item 7)

The board agreed to hold a further meeting on 18 March 2010 to consider the options for the development of the Cemetery

RESOLVED: That the public are excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure relating to the business affairs of an individual.

5 LAND HOLDINGS REPORT (Agenda item 6)

The Consultant Surveyor and the Treasurer explained that the tenant had been through a difficult time financially with particular problems caused by flooding. Although these problems had been addressed successfully the tenant remained financially vulnerable. One of the objects of the new lease terms is to allow the business to return to viability and retain a presence on site as a deterrent to unauthorised occupation and fly tipping which could be prohibitively expensive to address. The new leases will confirm the basis of occupation, allow better control in the future and ensure co-operation to ensure the cemetery extension can proceed on schedule.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Board notes the position with regard to its land holdings.

(2) That the Board proceeds to complete the new tenancy/lease agreements and the deed of surrender on the agreed terms.

(3) That the Board agrees to write off the arrears of rent.

(4) That the Board agrees to the accommodation works (item 2 is to be a pre-condition for the surrender of the existing tenancies/lease on the agreed terms items 3 & 4).