RUGBY AND DAVENTRY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE – 24TH JUNE 2015

A meeting of the Rugby and Daventry Crematorium Joint Committee will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 24th June 2015 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Adam Norburn
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Welcome to new members of the Joint Committee.
2. Appointment of Chairman – to appoint a Chairman of the Joint Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year (Member of Daventry District Council).
3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman – to appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year (Member of Rugby Borough Council).
4. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2015.
5. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
6. Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of –

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.
Membership of a County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.


11. Date of next meeting – please bring diaries to the meeting.

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information to be transacted.

Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed via the website.

The Reports of Officers (Ref. JCC 2015/16 – 1) are attached.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Mrs Parker and Helen Walton (Rugby Borough Council)
Councillors Mrs Lomax and Robertson (Daventry District Council)

Officers:

Sean Lawson, Lisa Handy, Chris Blundell, Christine Fraser (Rugby Borough Council)
Simon Bowers, Julie Lewis, Rob Saunders (Daventry District Council)

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Claire Waleczek, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer (01788 533524) or e-mail claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer named above.
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Investment Plan for Future Memorialisation

Background

The crematorium setting and landscape is perhaps the greatest selling point for the Rainsbrook facility. There are significant opportunities to create a wide range of memorialisation options within the landscape, which will facilitate our bereaved families to remember and mourn those that they have lost.

As discussed at the last Joint Committee, the site still lacks any degree of maturity. The only well-established area is the turfed ashes interment area, which has been laid out with seating. When the rest of the grounds have been finished we will undoubtedly be better equipped to provide a wider range of memorials for our families.

Funding

The Committee have previously approved the principle of reinvestment of the CAMEO (Mercury Trading) payments in to memorialisation schemes. This is likely to worth around £20,000 for 2015/16, although this will decrease over time as more facilities install mercury abatement equipment.

The Committee recommended that each Council reinvest an amount of the VAT refund from the construction budget in to a more rapid programme of landscape enhancements and memorialisation schemes.

It is anticipated that both Councils will approve the reinvestment of £25,000 for this purpose when they meet to ratify the 2014/2015 year end accounts.

This should create an investment fund in the order of £70,000 for 2015/16, with a further amount in the region of £20,000, as a result of CAMEO, becoming available in 2016/17.

Proposals for Investment in 2015/16

We have utilised the anticipated CAMEO income for this year to create a specific area for memorialisation for those that have served in or with the armed forces. This scheme was dedicated on 23rd April, the centenary anniversary of Rupert Brooke’s death. The slate tablet which bears the Rupert Brooke poem “The Soldier” has cost £4,000.

The next area for investment is the grassed scattering area to the west of the building near to the main pond. This has been seeded and is beginning to be used by families to scatter their loved ones. We have installed a stainless steel “Tree of Life” adjacent to this scattering area. Since we have been able to link the scattering with this memorialisation opportunity we have sold a leaf every time that we have scattered ashes. We have begun construction on a Breedon style path which will
lead up to the tree and circle it together with a dry stone retaining wall and memorial benches. This is in-keeping with existing elements around the grounds and will cost around £5,000.

The remaining scattering areas will be managed so as to encourage the creation of a meadow and wild flower area until such time as they are required to be used for any other specific uses. There is merit in looking to improve and encourage the development of this “meadow” through rolling and over seeding, at the appropriate time of year. This is likely to cost up to £7,500, depending on the need for further stone picking and ground preparation.

The new ornamental pond which has been created in front of the Avon ceremony room is now full with water and marginal plants are due shortly. This feature offers a wide range of opportunities for memorialisation around the creation of a waterfall rockery cascade and associated planting scheme. This scheme will require an investment in the region of £25,000 and it is planned to complete this over the summer / early autumn.

At this time this is probably the extent of the capital works that can practically be delivered in 2015/16.

**Proposals for Investment in 2016/17**

The largest and most complicated proposed memorialisation scheme is the creation of a “Gardens of Remembrance” on the green area immediately below the floral tribute area. The scheme will be in-keeping with Breedon pathways, wooden pergolas, seating areas, ornamental planting, and hedging with a variety memorial markers available.

The changing level across this area makes this a relatively complex engineering scheme involving careful 3 dimensional planning. However, when completed it would both enhance the visual setting of the facility and enable some very prestigious forms of memorialisation. This scheme would also involve relocating the original barbican memorial to become a focal point as well as linking the metal tree on the Gabion wall.

It is currently estimated that this scheme would require an investment in the region of £55,000. It is anticipated that this scheme can be designed and accurately priced ready for implementation in the beginning of the 2016/17 financial year.

**Recommendation**

The proposals for investment in memorialisation schemes, subject to the release of funding by both Councils, be approved.