

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chairman – Cllr L. Little  
 Councillors N. Barton, B. Cherokoff, C. Francis-Pester, J. Geldart, A. Giles-Townsend, S. Hale, G. Hill, J. Middleton, J. Norton-Sealey, K. O'Brien. A. Shopland, D. Shopland, J. West.  
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath

**17/818 RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Fone (family commitment), C. Hall (illness),  
**RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

**17/819 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Geldart declared a personal interest as funeral celebrant.

**17/820 DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF CLEVEDON BURIAL PROVISION****17/820.1 TO RECEIVE THE LETTER FROM NSC.**

Members received and noted the letter from North Somerset Council.

**17/820.2 RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN OF ALLOTMENTS, CHAIRMAN OF PROPERTY, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY AND THE TOWN CLERK ON THE WAY FORWARD.**

The report which had been circulated with the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August meeting presented the proposal to swap land at the Cemetery Allotments for land at Brookfield Walk to enable the town to have additional burial space and the Town Council to create additional allotments. The report broke down the various steps that would need to be undertaken, with safeguards. The Council would have the ability at each stage, pending the results of investigations to stop the process. Stage 1 being steps 1 & 2 of the proposal would be the testing of the soil at Brookfield by the Town Council to establish its suitability as allotments and the testing of the Cemetery Site by NSC to ensure that it reached the requirements of the Environment Agency.

Members were informed that the current cemetery has about 18 months capacity and that without an extension into the Cemetery Allotments there will be no burial space in Clevedon. NSC has conducted surveys on all suitable land within their control but none meet the regulations dictated by the Environment Agency for burial land.

Members noted that residents of the district can be buried in any of the NSC cemeteries so that any extension would not be exclusively for Clevedon residents, but also Clevedon residents once the Clevedon cemetery is full could be buried in Weston, or Portishead or adjacent villages' cemeteries that are under NSC control.

Proposed and seconded by Cllrs D & A Shopland, defeated by 9 votes to 5, that Clevedon Town Council not consider the issue as detailed in the report; a named vote was called.

For the motion – Cllr N. Barton, Cllr G. Hill, Cllr K. O'Brien, Cllr A. Shopland, Cllr D. Shopland.

Against the motion – Cllr B. Cherokoff, Cllr C. Francis-Pester, Cllr J. Geldart, Cllr A. Giles-Townsend, Cllr S. Hale, Cllr L. Little, Cllr J. Middleton, Cllr J. Norton-Sealey, Cllr J. West.

Members discussed the report and were reminded that only option on the table is the land at Brookfield. Concern was expressed about its suitability as an allotment site due to accessibility, and its isolation away from houses. Members were reminded that Steps 1 & 2 would be to establish the suitability of the sites and if not suitable then the proposal would be dropped. In response to questions it was explained that the issues relating to drainage and access would be investigated under stage 2, step 3, this would be also when the costs for the work could be established before any decision taken to proceed to stage 3, steps 4 to 6.

The funding for the initial work would be from the Allotment Investment Account which is ring-fenced for the creation of a new allotment; steps 1 & 2 would be each funded by the respective Councils.

The allotment waiting list is 69; members noted the comments in the report concerning the transferring of current tenants.

Members noted the comments in NSC letter concerning planning consent for the proposed new site; but as the land is owned by NSC and they are the planning authority their assistance in this would be sort.

Members were reminded that there had been extensive investigations by both NSC and Clevedon Town Council to find suitable alternative land for both the Allotments and Burials without success. If any member could identify specific land that could be used as an alternative they could inform the Town Clerk with details of location, ownership, and size?

A comment was made re compulsory purchasing any suitable land, although this has been ruled out by NSC due to the financial commitment involved in compulsory purchases.

Proposed by Cllr Francis-Pester, seconded by Cllr West and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 4 That Clevedon Town Council authorises the Town Clerk to obtain soil test report for the land at Brookfield. And to authorise North Somerset Council, in liaison with Clevedon Town Council's, to carry out tests on Cemetery allotment to establish its viability to be used for burials , steps 1 & 2; the results from both tests to be reported to the Council at a special meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....