

MUCH HADHAM BURIAL AUTHORITY

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Burial Authority held on Tuesday, 5 January 2016, following the close of the Planning Sub-Committee.

*Cllr I Hunt
*Cllr Mrs J Liversage
*Cllr Mrs P Taylor
*Cllr A J Young

* denotes present.

In attendance: No members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 December 2015 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

4. **MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL GROUNDS**

Reference was made to the resurfacing work required to the main pathway and, in view of the time of the year and as the work was not of an urgent nature, it was RESOLVED to defer a decision until the next meeting of the Burial Authority on 1 March 2016.

Cllr Mrs Liversage drew attention to the damaged fences at the entrance to the burial ground and, in spite of her best efforts, she had been unable to secure a quotation for the repair.

Cllr Mrs Taylor undertook to ascertain the repairs required and to seek to obtain competitive quotations.

5. **REVIEW OF BURIAL FEES**

Members reviewed the schedule of 'Comparison of Fees' which had been discussed at the last meeting and RESOLVED that the current scale of charge be increased by 10% rounded up to the nearest £10.

Revised rates as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Revised</u>
Internment – Resident	£500	£550
Internment – Non-resident	£5,000	£5,500
Re-open – Resident	£300	£330
Re-open – Non-resident	£1,800	£1,980
Memorial (new) – Resident	£100	£110
Memorial (new) – Non-resident	£300	£330
Memorial (addition of inscription) – Resident	£60	£70
Memorial (addition of inscription) – Non-resident	£60	£70
Cremated remains – Resident	£250	£280
Cremated remains – Non-resident	£1,500	£1,650

The revised charges to be effective from 1 April 2016.

6. FUTURE OF BURIAL LAND

The Clerk referred members to a plan of the existing burial ground which showed the number of burials which had taken place to date and the number of remaining plots.

Members were informed that over the last 16 years (1999-2015) there had been 54 new internments. The remaining number of plots totalled 32 which, if burials followed the past record, would mean that there would only be at the most 10 years left before additional land would be required.

The Clerk reminded members that the Council was the owner of the land beyond the existing burial ground which was currently being farmed by Mr H Findlay, Ufford Farm, Perry Green. Cllr Mrs Liversage agreed to open up a dialogue with Mr Findlay with a view to the Council agreeing a course of action to enable a smooth transition for the land to be brought back under its control.

It was generally recognised that this would involve the Council in a great deal of expenditure, which would necessitate members discussing a forward financial planning strategy.

7. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

None.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- (i) Maintenance of burial land and repairs to pathway and railings.
- (ii) Future burial land.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 1 March 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.