

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Meeting Room, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent on Monday 16th October 2017.

Present:

Councillors R G W Grosvenor (Chairman), Mrs P L Ackroyd, G Hall, Mrs J F Jessel, Mrs J Jones, D C Leese and C V Whittaker.

Officers Present:

The Heads of Service (Sal Khan and Mark Rizk), the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Open Spaces Manager, the Acting Enterprise Manager, the E-Communications Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

PART II

189/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

190/17 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

191/17 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

192/17 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st October 2017 to 31st January 2018 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

193/17 **CEMETERY PRICE AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the review of the pricing structure for Rolleston and Stapenhill Cemetery and the review of operations was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Cemetery fees at April 1st 2017;
- Appendix B: Proposed Cemetery fees;
- Appendix C: Equalities and Health Impact Assessment.

Councillors noted that based on the last three years outturn, income from cemetery fees had recovered on average 70% of the costs, with the remainder being met by the general taxpayer. In order to fully recover all costs, as per the Fees and Charges policy, existing fees would need to increase by 30%. Furthermore, based on changing work patterns, it was proposed that the Cemetery opening hours be adjusted to open 9am-1pm on weekends and bank holidays. In order to remove the risks experienced by the Council with the existing practice of bricked graves, it was proposed that the Council appoint a contractor to specifically pre-brick graves in advance of burial, subject to further engagement.

The reasons for making the decision shown below were set out in the report.

Resolved:

That with effect from 1st April 2018:

- (i) All Burial fees for Children under 16 be reduced to £0 and that a small administration charge to be applied to children from outside of East Staffordshire;
- (ii) Option 2a (30% increase) for burial fees be approved, with future annual fee increases to follow funeral inflation rates rather than RPI;
- (iii) Time limits on permissions for grave surrounds and kerb sets be removed and that costs for grave surrounds be incorporated into ERB fees and rights to install a surround be granted automatically once a grave was purchased;

- (iv) Cemetery opening times be amended to Monday to Friday 10-4 and Weekends/ Bank Holidays 9-1 and that Burial fees for evenings and weekends be replaced with an out of hours charge;
- (v) Pre-dug and pre-bricked graves be introduced for Muslim burial, subject to further engagement;
- (vi) Triple fee exemptions be revised.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

194/17 **BUSINESS RATES RETENTION SCHEME PILOT**

This item had been withdrawn from the meeting.

195/17 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.