

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**REPORT OF THE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER**

**1. Agency Administration staff member**

- 1.1. Members will recall that during the height of the pandemic, we recruited an administration staff member to assist with the increased workload sustained throughout this period. As previously reported to members, thankfully there is currently a reduced trend in cremation numbers, although, there is no surety even at this point that this may continue.
- 1.2. Members kindly agreed to retain the agency administration staff member and to keep this retention under review, as a precautionary contingency measure.
- 1.3. Sadly, we are still not in a position to be confident regarding our cremation figures going into the Autumn and Winter, therefore, members are asked to consider retaining the agency administration staff member until the end of this financial year, which would allow us to have more confidence in the level of the work load and give some assurance and an idea of length of continued employment, to the staff member.
- 1.4. RECOMMENDED: That members give consideration to retaining the administration agency staff member, through the autumn/winter period until the end of this financial year.

**2. Crematorium Chapel Refurbishment**

- 2.1. Due to the ongoing use of strong sanitising fluid during the pandemic, the existing pews, curtains and carpets within the Chapels suffered badly as the sanitising fluid stripped the wood of its original colour and had a detrimental effect on the carpets and curtains. Overall the chapels are now looking extremely tired and in desperate need of refreshing. We are now able to utilise a less harsh sanitiser as further products have come onto the market throughout the pandemic.
- 2.2. We recently met with a company who specialises in refurbishment of this kind, who carried out the refurbishment of both chapels at Glyntaff.

We are still awaiting costs in this respect but with Member's agreement it is proposed to undertake the following works to the Crematorium chapels:

#### Chapels

- Completely redecorate both chapels.
- Carry out cleaning works to the high level windows
- Replace the existing pews with quality cushioned chairs (the chairs looked at will withstand sanitisation without detriment). Furthermore, chairs are also moveable should conditions surrounding the pandemic dictate and impact on attendee numbers again.
- Replace the lectern and refurbish the alter.
- Replace and extend the catafalque curtain.
- Refurbish internal doors
- Replace the existing carpet

#### Other works

- Decorating the external upper elevations and stack
- Renew/refurbish external doors (main building)
- Replace the floor within the charging room
- Replace the false ceiling with the charging room

RECOMMENDED: That members approve the proposed works.

### **3. Direct Cremations.**

- 3.1. Members will recall that Bereavement Services undertook a pilot project, to offer the public the benefit of opting for a Direct Cremation as opposed to a full cremation service. A direct cremation offers a financial saving to bereaved families and utilises a time-slot (9am) seldom utilised by either Crematoria.
- 3.2. The pilot ran for a period of twelve months and during that period was well received by Funeral Directors and bereaved families. During the pilot period between both sites, 96 Direct cremations were undertaken. Members will see that this has demonstrated a demand for this service.
- 3.3. The continuation of offering this service at a prescribed fee of £568 for 2021/22 on a permanent basis, was approved by Cabinet members. It was also confirmed that the charge for Direct Cremation 2022/23 onwards, be determined as part of the usual annual fee uplift.

RECOMMENDED: That members approve the continuation of offering a Direct Cremation service to the bereaved at a prescribed fee of £568. This fee being subject to annual fee uplift in line with all other Bereavement services fees.

#### 4. Statistics and Performance

4.1. Below are the statistics to date.

<b>Cremations</b>	
1970-2015	50038
2016	1258
2017	1480
2018	1527
2019	1458
2020	1819
Jan – Mar 2021	525
April – June 2021	298
July 2021	89
August 2021	74
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>58566</b>
<b>Year to 31 March 2022</b>	
Adults	460
Children	0
Stillbirths	1
NVF's	38
Body organs	1
Scattered	9
Interred	51
Released	401
<b>Applications for memorials</b>	
Book of Remembrance	13
Memorial Cards	0
Plaques on Plots	74
Plaques in Garden	2
Rose Bushes	13
Memorial Leaves	5

4.2. RECOMMENDATION: That the Crematorium statistics are noted.