

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held in the Town Hall, Huntingdon, on Thursday 24th January at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: A Beavor; A Blackwell; P Brown; J Cole; A Diaz; S Gifford; V Hufford; P Kadewere; B Luckham; S McAdam; P Pearce; T Sanderson; T Shrapnel; S Sweek; and K Webb.

Absent: Councillors: There were none.

47. **HUNTINGDON CREMATORIUM**

Members received a verbal update on the progress of the Huntingdon Crematorium.

i. Outcome of Planning Application

The Application was put before the Development Management Committee on Monday 21st January 2019 and was unanimously approved. The opposing Dignity application was heard at the same meeting and was refused.

It is anticipated that Dignity will submit a Judicial Review against HDC, with a letter of intent to be received within 6 weeks. The original Dignity Application submitted in 2017, will be going to appeal 2nd April 2019, however it was doubtful that the decision for refusal will be overturned.

A Judicial Review would be submitted as a delay tactic, to slow progress on the Town Council application progress whilst a judge assesses if there are grounds for a review.

Huntingdon Town Council is now currently waiting to hear from the Planning officer for the official permission and conditions which is due on Friday 25th January 2019, then there will be a 6-8-week period for planners to agree we have met the conditions.

At a Crematorium meeting on Wednesday, the Town Clerk met with CDSL, Benchmark Architects and Mac Consulting to discuss the details of the development.

- furnishings,
- acoustic specialists,
- streaming services,
- AV specialists
- whether the site is supplied by mains gas or Calor/Propane tanks,
- the water on site being recycled,

- security,
- gates,
- height restrictions for vehicles,
- charging points for electric cars,
- CCTV provision on site and internally
- External lighting (must be down lighting) such as bollards
- Wet room and WC in the chapel – health and safety
- Mortuary capacity and layout

ii. Finance

Members were advised that the current costings for the crematorium building were **XX** plus the administration buildings, carparking and road access and the additional extras listed above would take the total expenditure to **XX**.

Tender documents were being prepared and would be issued in the first week of May, site visits would be conducted week commencing 13th May and would expect the tenders returned by week ending 7th June 2019. A contractor would then be appointed by 5th July 2019 and should expect work to commence on site by September 2019. The build would hopefully be approximately 9 months, with an aim to have the site opened May 2020.

The Town Clerk recommended that to cover the costs a loan would need to be more than **XX** but that it would be prudent to take out a £7.5 million loan.

iii. Land

Members were advised that the crematorium site would be on a lease from the Lord De Ramsey estate until further development of the surrounding area facilitates a land swap. Proposed terms of the lease would involve a percentage payable to the estate based on number of funerals and/or cremations.

The Town Clerk also informed Members of initial plans to develop a new depot and nursery, south of the crematorium but shielded by the tree line. The proposed depot would endeavour to be as environmentally friendly and sustainable with solar panelling, recycled water supply and the nurseries would be heated by the excess power from the cremators. Vehicles on site would be transitioned to electric vehicles.

Members considered it would be sensible to budget for the new depot as part of the loan arrangement.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to make an application to MHLG for borrowing approval for a £7.5 million loan from PWLB, to cover the cost of the new crematorium and burial site, and the new depot and nursery.

A Member questioned the draw down arrangement for the loan and the Town Clerk advised that there would be two options available.

- Draw down as you need
- Draw down total lump sum

MAYOR