

THE BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Bretby Crematorium Scrutiny Panel held at Bretby Crematorium on Wednesday 28 January 2004.

PRESENT

for East Staffordshire Borough Council

Councillor Ms A White (Chairman)
Councillor C F Insley CBE

for South Derbyshire District Council

Councillor R W Southern

Officers Present

Mr P G Davies (Clerk to the Scrutiny Panel)
Mr N French (Crematorium Manager)
Mr I Marriner (Environmental Health Manager)
Ms R McGoldrick (Customer Services Officer – SDDC)

Also Present

Mr J Hylton, John Hylton Funeral Directors

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Dunn and Mrs B Renwick and Mr N Durrant of Ward & Brewin, Funeral Directors.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 –
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL**

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Clerk advised that there were no changes in the Membership of the Scrutiny Panel.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 26 November 2003 were approved and signed as a correct record.

FOURTH SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEW

The Scrutiny Panel identified the following main issues which the Review should address:

- A) Is the current Joint Committee the best form of partnership? It would be necessary to look at what the alternatives might be and what advantages there might be in changing. Options may include:
- a) Additional partners from the public sector
 - b) Creation of a board of independent trustees
 - c) Creation of a stand alone company
 - d) Charitable status
 - e) Company limited by guarantee
- B) If the outcome of the first question is to retain the current partnership then the following issues would need to be addressed:
- a) Should the agreement be rewritten to bring it up to date in legal and language terms?
 - b) Are the financial arrangements as described for raising capital still be viable and acceptable to this Council? Are there alternatives?
 - c) Are the current arrangements for representation between the two partners still acceptable?
 - d) The changes implemented in 2000 should be dealt with in the agreement.
 - e) The role of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in taking delegated decisions is not included in the agreement.
 - f) If there is a continuing role for a Scrutiny Committee, should this be made up of Members of both authorities not on the Joint Committee?
- C) If the outcome of the first question is to look at alternative forms of partnership then the Scrutiny Committee should recommend to the Joint Committee what principles and objectives there should be in any new arrangements, eg
- Policy on setting fees and charges
 - Use and disposal of accrued surpluses
 - Ownership and disposal of assets
 - Ongoing financial liability of original partners
 - Transfer of employment

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Mr N Durrant had advised that with effect from 1 January 2004 the Funeral Standards Council had ceased to exist. Most of its Members had now taken up membership of the National Association of Funeral Directors. Mr Durrant had indicated his wish to continue to attend Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel as an observer.

ANGLESEY CHAPEL

Ward and Brewin Funeral Services had written to the Clerk advising that the new Anglesey Chapel was a credit to the Crematorium. They also pointed out that the new Wesley sound system was an excellent additional facility.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next Meeting of the Scrutiny Panel be held on 3 March 2004 at Bretby Crematorium.

Chairman.

