



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

**Minutes of a Joint Meeting with Representatives from other Local Councils
regarding a New Cemetery for North West Denbighshire.**

Held on 7th May 2024

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Rhuddlan)
Cllr Val Simmons (Rhuddlan)
Steve Wilson (Rhuddlan)
Cllr Jacquie McAlpine (Rhyl)
Gareth Nickels (Rhyl)
Cllr Colin Hardie (St Asaph)
Cllr Peter Scott (St Asaph)

1. Apologies

Cllr Dave Parry (Dyserth).

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Discussions

Cllr Mike Kermode welcomed and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He had circulated a document that outlined the main case for a new cemetery in North West Denbighshire, with associated information about the key issues.

It was agreed that the views of the Denbighshire County Council (DCC) officers that Prestatyn Cemetery will become the main burial place was not acceptable for a number of reasons, mainly its location and accessibility.

Each council was asked for their position on the issue of a new cemetery. Cllr. Kermode stated that it was in Rhuddlan's previous and current Town Plans. Rhyl stated that the issue has been on the agenda since 2010 and that they were committed to the objectives of this group. St Asaph stated it is not in their city plan, however it would be prudent to be involved as their cemetery could be used up quicker especially with the new crematorium being so close and the large increase seen in the internment of ashes.

A question was asked if cemeteries could only be used by local residents but it was stated that this was not the case because cemeteries was a DCC responsibility.

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Cllr Kermode's document looked at the main considerations for a new cemetery which included size, costs, consultation with residents, location of site, development and who would operate the cemetery when open. He had received information from an officer in Flintshire County Council (FCC) about the business case for the extension of Hawarden cemetery, which showed the potential for the construction and operating costs to be well covered by burial income fees. The FCC papers mentioned that 1 hectare could provide 1,500 graves.

Cllr Kermode said that he had been in touch with a specialised consultancy that would do a free desk-top exercise on a couple of proposed sites and that it would then cost approx. £10,000 for a detailed assessment for any sites that had the potential for development.

A discussion on how big the new site would have to be, how many grave plots a year are required and the data from DCC was questioned. It was agreed to ask the DCC Burials Officer for further information on burials and cremations as well as the running costs and income for the Prestatyn cemetery.

It was agreed that the next step will be to take the case for a new cemetery to DCC at member level, using the arrangements through the Communities Scrutiny Committee. The main aim is to get the issue for a cabinet level discussion. It was suggested that the approach is made jointly by all the local councils in this MAG area and those that might be affected by the lack of burial capacity. This was agreed and is to be co-ordinated by Rhuddlan Town Council.

It was also agreed that the group's present membership should continue, regardless of changes in the position of Mayors at the different councils, so as to provide continuity on the issue.

Signed *Mike Kermode* Cllr Mike Kermode

7/5/24