

MINUTES OF THE CEMETERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE ARUNTA MEETING ROOM - CIVIC CENTRE, 93 TODD STREET ON TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021

PRESENT

Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Glen Auricht
Councillor Jimmy Cocking (Chair)
Councillor Matt Paterson
Ms Meredith Campbell
Imam Hamdullah
Mr David Hewitt
Ms Jennifer Noble
Pastor Ben Matson
Ms Emma Wilson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Dilip Nellikat - Acting Director Technical Services
Mr Anthony Geppa - Media Officer
Mr Michael Harris - Acting Senior Registry Officer
Ms Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)
Ms Kristine Capangpangan - Administration Assistant (Observing)

13 th Alice Springs Town Council Cemeteries Advisory Committee (CAC) - Attendance List 2020/2021					
	6 Oct 2020	1 Dec 2020	2 Feb 2021	1 Jun 2021	3 Aug 2021
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Matt Paterson	✓	A	✓	✓	
Ms Meredith Campbell	✓	✓	A	✓	
Imam Hamdullah				✓	
Mr David Hewitt	✓	A	✓	✓	
Ms Jennifer Noble				✓	
Pastor Ben Matson				✓	
Ms Emma Wilson				✓	

- ✓ Attended
A Apology received
- No attendance and no apology recorded
■ Not on the Committee at this time

The meeting opened at 12.02 pm with a quorum.

1. APOLOGIES

Pastor Rod Holmes
Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Manager Technical Services
Mr Ben Fitzgerald - Manager Works

The Executive Assistant Technical Services advised the Committee that Pastor Rod Holmes had relocated out of Alice Springs and had tendered his resignation.

1.1 Welcome to new members.

The Executive Assistant Technical Services welcomed the following members to the Cemeteries Advisory Committee:

- Imam Hamdullah - Alice Springs Islamic Society
- Ms Jennifer Noble - RSL Alice Springs
- Ms Emma Wilson - Centre Funeral Services
- Pastor Ben Matson - Christian Ministers Association / Fellowship

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee noted a letter of thanks had been sent to Pastor Rod Holmes on the 10 May 2021 on behalf of Council and the Committee.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held 2 February 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting held 2 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Auricht

Seconded: Mayor Ryan

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising from the previous minutes

Mayor Ryan enquired what had caused the delay in regard to progressing the live-streaming at the Garden Cemetery Chapel. The Chair noted this item was covered in the agenda as item 5.2.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Alice Springs Town Council Website - Cemeteries

5.1.1 Funeral Notices - website placement

The Executive Assistant provided some background on initial Committee discussions surrounding the website "Funeral Notices" concept, and opened the Council website for the Committee to see the initial concept and visualize what the committee had proposed since.

Admin Technical Services left the room at 12:05pm

Admin Technical Services entered the room at 12:07pm

Imam Hamdullah entered the room at 12:07 pm

Discussion ensued in regard to the new tab on the website effectively working like a Classified page of a newspaper for a range of public notices e.g. funerals, AGM's, notice of a name change (*if legislation allows*), etc. It was mentioned that removing the word "cemeteries" and replacing it with the word funerals which would be more appropriate, and noted a request for the inclusion of contact details for Centre Funeral Services on the page.

Emma Wilson entered the room at 12:11 pm

The Media Officer noted a request for the page to have a 'sign up' function for residents to be emailed relevant public notices and that the website developer would be engaged to further this concept, if approved. The Committee supported the development of this page being funded through an IT budget line.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council:

That a new “Public Notices” tab be added to the ASTC website that specifically includes funeral notices and other events that require public notices similar to the classified section of the newspaper.

Moved: Jennifer Noble

Seconded: Councillor Auricht

CARRIED

Action:

Once developed, Officers to promote this “Public Notices” page through the Church network in Alice Springs, Radio, the Library, 50+ Centre and Council’s *Community Connect*.

Action:

Officers to write a letter of thanks to the Member for Araluen for her efforts to keep the community informed of Deaths and Funerals in the absence of the Centralian Advocate.

5.1.2 Burial details - page development

The Senior Records Officer updated the Committee in regard to the concept of a page with a search engine function on Council’s website to locate the burial site of a loved one within the Alice Springs Cemeteries. He noted data compilation had been completed and this concept would function through the input of a person’s name which would provide information in regard to the cemetery, row and plot details.

Discussion ensued in regard to incorporating QR functionality, producing a GPS position for the gravesite in addition to the plot and row details, and the potential to indicate if the gravesite was a double interment or if the plot was reserved. The Committee indicated their hesitation for including personal details in regard to a reserved plot and that this could be further developed over time if appropriate.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council:

That Council approve the development of a searchable burial details database online with mapping and GPS capability to be integrated appropriately through Council’s website.

Moved: Mayor Ryan

Seconded: Councillor Auricht

CARRIED

5.2 Live Streaming - Garden Cemetery Chapel

The Executive Assistant Technical Services provided an update on behalf of the ICT Manager:

The equipment has arrived, and challenges relating to providing audio have been addressed, which required bringing on an audio technician. Final installation is subject to expert advice on the best way to ensure network connectivity, due to the lack of fixed line internet services at the Chapel. Expected installation of mid-June.

5.3 Outdoor TV Screens - Garden Cemetery Chapel

The Executive Assistant Technical Services advised Officers had obtained quotes for the two (2) televisions and appropriate (weight rated) stands/trolleys, and advised the financial investment for this. It was noted there may be potential delays in supply. The Committee resolved to support the purchase.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council:

That Council purchase two large television screens and appropriate trolleys for the use at large funeral services to the value of \$12,000.

Moved: Emma Wilson

Seconded: Councillor Paterson

CARRIED

It was noted that the large fixed television screens on either side of the chapel were not in the ideal position as they caused the audience to need to turn their heads away from the service entirely to be able to view. Officers agreed to investigate possible solutions to this.

Action:

IT Manager and Acting Director Technical Services to investigate options for the relocation or repositioning of the fixed screens inside the chapel.

5.4 Garden of Angels - Rotary / Ly Underdown Project

The Executive Assistant Technical Services provided context on the history of the Rotary - Ly Underdown Project and advised that the Manager Infrastructure met with Virginia Loy, President Rotary (replaced Clive Hale) and David Mortimer recently about progressing and expending funds that Rotary were holding in regard to the project.

The President of Rotary has advised she will work with Council Officers to submit a compliant proposal that considers and adheres to Heritage requirements and Conservation Management Guidelines for the Alice Springs General (Memorial) Cemetery. Officer's noted this updated proposal would be submitted to a future Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting for this Committee's consideration and endorsement and if suitable the President of Rotary would be invited to perform a deputation.

Action:

Acting Director Technical Services to work with Rotary in regard to the project proposal to ensure its compliance.

5.5 Alice Springs Garden Cemetery - Niche Wall

The Executive Assistant Technical Services provided the Committee with information in regard to the Niche Wall at the Alice Springs Garden Cemetery on behalf of the Manager Works and Director Technical Services.

The Committee resolved the following:

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council:

That a project in regard to the design and construction of a Niche Wall at the Alice Springs Garden Cemetery be developed as a shovel ready project.

Moved: Jennifer Noble

Seconded: Councillor Auricht

CARRIED

5.6 Anzac Centenary Memorial

5.7 Committee Memberships

On behalf of the Director Technical Services, the Executive Assistant Technical Services noted that a number of Committee positions were due to expire in August this year and proposed that all external memberships be extended to August 2022. The Committee resolved to support this recommendation.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council:

That all external memberships for the Cemeteries Advisory Committee be extended through until August 2022.

Moved: Mayor Ryan

Seconded: Councillor Auricht

CARRIED

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

12noon, Tuesday 3 August 2021

Arunta Meeting Room, Civic Centre - 93 Todd Street Alice Springs

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm to resume in Confidential.

Moved: Councillor Paterson

Seconded: Mayor Ryan

CARRIED