

MINUTES OF THE CEMETERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020, IN THE ARUNTA MEETING ROOM - CIVIC CENTRE, 93 TODD STREET ALICE SPRINGS

PRESENT

Mayor Damien Ryan
 Councillor Glen Auricht
 Councillor Jamie de Brenni (Chairperson)
 Councillor Catherine Satour
 Mr David Hewitt - National Trust
 Mr David Mortimer - Community Member
 Mr Mark Mossop - Centre Funerals
 Pastor Rod Holmes - Alice Springs Ministers Fellowship

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
 Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Manager Technical Services
 Mr Ben Fitzgerald - Manager Works
 Ms Kylie Jones - Senior Records Officer
 Ms Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

13 th Alice Springs Town Council Cemeteries Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting - Attendance List					
	10 Sept 19	1 Oct 19	4 Feb 20	7 Apr 20	2 Jun 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	A	✓	✓		
Councillor Glen Auricht	A	✓	✓		
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	A	✓		
Councillor Jacinta Price	--	--	--		
Councillor Catherine Satour	✓	✓	✓		
Pastor Rod Holmes	✓	A	✓		
David Hewitt	✓	✓	✓		
David Mortimer	✓	✓	✓		
Mark Mossop	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Attended
 ✓ Proxy attended in place of committee member
 Proxy
 A Apology received
 -- No attendance and no apology recorded

The meeting opened at 12:30 pm

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Correspondence from the Acting Director Heritage Branch to Manager Governance Alice Springs Town Council dated 31 January 2020.

The Committee Received and noted the correspondence which related to agenda item 5.4.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held 1 October 2019

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting held 1 October 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Auricht

Seconded: Councillor Satour

CARRIED

- 4.1.1 Changes to named sections of Alice Springs General Cemetery - David Mortimer

The following was raised later in the meeting, and has been listed here as it was raised in regard to the previous minutes

David Mortimer raised a query from the previous meeting minutes relating to the following passage:

UNCONFIRMED Minutes - Cemeteries Advisory Committee – 1 October 2019 (excerpt)

6.1.2 Council's feedback to Draft Terms of Reference comments

"...The Manager Governance reiterated the response provided; that the identified positions had been aligned with the legislative requirements of the board as per the Cemeteries Act, and that as there was no separate section identified in the Cemeteries for Aboriginal people, there was no position identified on the Committee..."

David presented a document he referred to as the 'Bruce Strong' plan of the Alice Springs General Cemetery (dated 1995) which identified section 9 of the cemetery as "Aboriginal". David also referred to the *Alice Springs General Cemetery - DRAFT Conservation and Management Plans*, page 46 which identified section 9 as "Aboriginal". He noted he had been out to the General Cemetery this morning and this section was now physically sign posted as "non-denomination".

ACTION:

Senior Records Officer to investigate:

- the history of the sections of the Alice Springs General Cemetery
- when section 9 was changed from 'Aboriginal' to 'Non-denominational'
- who made the decision and whether any consultation occurred with Heritage

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1 Cemetery Entry Statement - Update - Manager Technical Services

The Manager Technical Services advised the Committee that the Garden Cemetery Entry Statement Project was now complete. He noted the gates were operational, solar powered and Council was waiting on the Occupancy Permit to sign off the project which is expected to be received in the coming weeks.

Positive feedback had been received by various members of the Committee in regard to the finished gates.

The Committee resolved to write a letter of thanks to David Rilstone and Pip McManus for their work on the gates and the Garden Cemetery Entry Statement Project.

Moved: David Hewitt

Seconded: David Mortimer

CARRIED

ACTION:

Director of Technical Services to write a letter of thanks to David Rilstone and Pip McManus for their work on the Garden Cemetery Entry Statement Project.

5.2 Review of Terms of Reference - Cemeteries Committee - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services enquired if there had been any questions from the Terms of Reference that had been tabled at the previous Committee meeting and advised if there were no further comments the Terms of Reference would be tabled in a report to the Corporate Services Committee in February. No questions were raised.

5.3 Draft Conservation and Management Plans - Update - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised the report with the Draft Conservation and Management Plans is due to be submitted to the Technical Services Committee in March after some adjustments to the report have been made.

5.4 Alice Springs General Cemetery - Unmarked Graves - Senior Records Officer

The Senior Records Officer reported on an action from the previous Committee meeting:

Action (from previous meeting):

...review the process of marking unmarked graves, and return the information to this Committee in February 2020.

The Senior Records Officer advised that when an application is received through Council to mark a grave / install a headstone, it is assessed to ensure the size specifications have not been exceeded. It is approved by the Cemetery Curator – Director Technical Services, an application fee is paid and a permit is issued. The permit is emailed and a hardcopy is mailed to the applicant.

Correspondence from the Acting Director Heritage was tabled in regard to this agenda item, and to address questions from the previous meeting in regard to marking graves at the Heritage Listed Alice Springs General Cemetery:

Correspondence from the Acting Director Heritage Branch to Manager Governance Alice Springs Town Council dated 31 January:

"...under the Heritage Regulations Section 3 Clause 2 (l) that minor works, declared exempt under clause 1, includes : Digging or making a new grave; or the repair or maintenance of a monument or grave marker. Also, Section 3 Clause 1 (c) states that minor work is declared to be exempt work if the work does not detrimentally affect the heritage significance of the place or object, and in this case of the installation of a new grave marker on an existing unmarked grave, it can only enhance the heritage significance of the grave."

Further discussion in regard to unmarked graves occurred and has been recorded in agenda item 7.1.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was incorrectly listed on the agenda twice (See 3.1).

7. GENERAL BUSINESS7.1 Alice Springs General Cemetery - Unmarked Graves

Councillor Auricht enquired in regard to the percentages of unmarked graves and reiterated the point from the Acting Director Heritage's letter which advised that:

"...installation of a new grave marker on an existing unmarked grave, it can only enhance the heritage significance of the grave."

Councillor Auricht raised the suggestion to approach church groups within the municipality and enquire if there was any interest in marking of graves at the cemetery. Concern in regard to the consultation process was raised; Committee members cited the challenge of contacting appropriate next of kin for permission to mark graves, and the potential to 'open old wounds'.

Discussion ensued in regard to how this could be approached sensitively.

The Committee resolved that an action from this Committee was for the Director Technical Services to write to the Alice Springs Christian Ministers Association to determine the appetite of these groups to contact families and encourage the marking of graves at the Alice Springs General Cemetery.

Moved: Councillor Auricht

Seconded: Councillor Satour

CARRIED

ACTION:

- Director Technical Services to write to the Alice Springs Christian Ministers Association via email to Pastor Rod Holmes:
 - to invite the churches to investigate the marking of graves at the Alice Springs General Cemetery, and
 - to offer the appropriate support of Council through the Senior Records Officer in this process
- Pastor Holmes to table the letter at the next Alice Springs Christian Ministers Association Committee meeting for discussion.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 **Costed headstones/grave markers concept - Councillor Auricht**

Councillor Auricht enquired if any progress has been made on the concept of having fully-costed headstones/grave markers. The Director Technical Services advised this was still being considered and discussed.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7 April 2020, 12:30pm.

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

Meeting closed at 1:05pm.