

MINUTES OF THE CEMETERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE ANDY MCNEILL ROOM - CIVIC CENTRE, 93 TODD STREET ON WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT

Mayor Matt Paterson
Councillor Allison Bitar
Councillor Steve Brown (Chair)
Ms Meredith Campbell
Imam Hamdullah
Mr David Hewitt
Mr Randle Walker (proxy)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dilip Nellikat - Acting Director Technical Services
Mr Takudzwa Charlie – Manager Technical Services
Mr Anthony Geppa - Media Officer
Mr Michael Harris - Acting Senior Registry Officer
Mr Brenton Barnett – Acting Supervisor Municipal Services (Curator)
Ms Kristine Capangpangan - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

14 th Alice Springs Town Council Cemeteries Advisory Committee (CAC) - Attendance List 2021/22					
	27 Oct 2021	Feb 2022	May 2022	1 Aug 2022	
Mayor Matt Paterson	✓				
Councillor Allison Bitar	✓				
Councillor Steve Brown	✓				
Ms Meredith Campbell	✓				
Imam Hamdullah	✓				
Mr David Hewitt	✓				
Ms Jennifer Noble	A				
Pastor Ben Matson	A				
Ms Emma Wilson	A				
Mr Randle Walker	✓				

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

The meeting opened at 12:32 pm

1. APOLOGIES

Ms Jennifer Noble
Pastor Ben Matson
Ms Emma Wilson

1.1 Welcome to new members

Mayor Paterson welcomed the following members to the Cemeteries Advisory Committee:

- Councillor Allison Bitar
- Councillor Steve Brown
- Mr Randle Walker – Desert Funerals

1.2 Election of Chairperson

In accordance with Council policy, Mayor Paterson declared the position of Chair vacant and called for nominations.

Mayor Paterson nominated Councillor Steve Brown as Chair
Councillor Brown accepted the nomination.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council

That Councillor Steve Brown be appointed the new Chair of the Cemeteries Advisory Committee

Moved: Mayor Paterson

Seconded: David Hewitt

CARRIED

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held 1 June 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting held 1 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Mayor Paterson

Seconded: Meredith Campbell

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising from the previous minutes

4.2.1 ASTC Website – Funeral Notices

Senior Media Officer advised that a new Public Notices tab has been recently added on Council's website and is now fully functional. This will operate like a classifieds section of a newspaper. Council's media will have a planned advertisement in place advising the community of this service. It is also not limited to notices within the NT but available to all state jurisdictions.

A question was raised on whether the death notices section was only limited to Funeral Services or will Council consider adding information for celebrants, headstone providers, flower shops etc. The Senior Media Officer took the question on notice.

The committee noted and received the update.

4.2.2 Burial Details – Page Development Update

The concept of the proposed website will function like a search engine for both the Memorial and Garden Cemetery allowing information of a deceased persons row and plot details within the cemetery.

Acting Senior Records Officer informed the committee that Council's ICT department are still working on the legalities on privacy issues on what information is allowed to be provided. The information of burial details has been compiled in a spreadsheet and is ready to go pending further instructions from the ICT department. It was suggested that due to cultural sensitivity, deaths not be recorded on the database within a year or until it is appropriate. More updates will be provided at the next meeting.

The committee noted and received the update.

4.2.3 Live Streaming Update

Acting Manager Corporate and Community Services advised that NBN has contracted a company that will supply fibre optic cabling to the Garden Cemetery along with other Council sites with minimal connectivity. Trenching and cabling works are expected to commence in November. Council is still exploring options on who will be responsible in operating all the technical equipment when live streaming.

The committee noted and received the update.

4.2.4 Outdoor TV Screens – Garden Cemetery Chapel

The Acting Director Technical Services advised that an onsite visit was conducted to assess options. A few OHS issues were raised including the screen size, trip hazards with the wiring and management of the televisions. It was also noted that there is potential issue of vandalism.

Discussion ensued with regard to solutions in lieu of the outdoor TV screens and the potential to repurpose or reposition the existing television screens inside the chapel.

There was also discussion surrounding the addition of a projector to be installed at the front of the chapel. This would minimise disruption to the aesthetic to the front of the chapel and will retain the artifice. The committee supported the purchase of a ground mounted projector as an alternative to the two large TV screens.

ACTION:

Council Officers to investigate requirements involved in the ground mounted projector and to explore pricing.

ACTION:

Council Officers to relocate the existing television screens inside to be repositioned outside and be mounted on posts.

4.2.5 Garden of Angels (Rotary / Ly Underdown Project)

Manager Technical Services advised that ongoing discussions are still happening with Virginia Loy. An update will be provided once an onsite meeting takes place.

ACTION:

Manager Technical Services to find out the current status of heritage requirements and what Council can do about it.

4.2.6 Garden Cemetery Niche Wall

Manager Technical Services advised that a structural assessment was undertaken on the existing niche wall and it was identified that a fourth row could be added. This has provided an additional 21 spaces in the niche wall providing approximately 5 years until a new niche wall is required. Director Technical Services advised that estimated costs as of 2020 was at \$180k for a new niche wall therefore this should be added as a shovel ready project. The Mayor suggested setting aside in the budget \$30k per year for this project. The committee received and noted the comments.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

TBA - 2022

Garden Cemetery Chapel – 155 Montgomery Road, Alice Springs.

Meeting closed at 1:11 pm.