

WIGTON BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE
Wigton Cemetery, Station Hill, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9BN
Email address: wigtoncemetery@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting of the WBJC on Wednesday 24th April 2019

(It was pointed out that this meeting would be recorded)

Present – public. Book at door with list of names. Sandra Keaveney, Manager of Market Hall intervened and said a maximum of 50 could be in the hall at any one time. Anger and resentment – surplus had to wait in the hallway (6 or 8), another 8/10 in foyer downstairs. Pointed out that 50 was the maximum many times.

Committee – Elaine Lynch (Chair), Pat Williams, W McKie, Alan Pilcher, George Girvan, William Marrs, Mary Huntington, Mary Clark.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of meeting of 27th March – approved.
Extraordinary meeting 8th April – approved.
3. Declarations of Interest of Dispensations – non.
4. Exclusion of the press and public.
Items 7 and 8, 9.
5. Public participation
Name – Marion Smallwood – what is happening at the cemetery?
EL pointed out that only the running of the cemetery could be discussed – staff matters could not be discussed. She outlined the structure of WBJC etc and outlined the financial situation. There was much jeering and shouting particularly from Mrs Smallwood. It became difficult to list the questions but they will be on the recorded included Mary Kelly, Barrie Coates, Sally Fisher, Miss Mattinson (Terry's daughter), Fred Johnston, Bryony Harding.
EL pointed out that the aim of the WBJC was to safeguard the cemetery and the only alternative would be to hand over the running of the cemetery to Allerdale – something the public obviously did not support. She also pointed out that if the present situation continued, the financial consequences would be dire – we would go bankrupt. MC pointed out that no other cemetery in north Cumbria had a curator.
On being questioned about the Memorial Garden, GG said there had been public demand for the garden for the burial of cremated remains. WM pointed out to the public that the WBJC had to operate in a very difficult financial climate and that was the reality of the situation. He had to shout to be heard. The questions had to be brought to an end as there was other business to discuss. The majority of the public left the room at this point.
6. Finance matters
Payments received and authorised – EL pointed out to the remaining public that we had spent about twice as much as we had received – emphasising our problem with finances.
7. Conveyances
One cremated remains.
8. No Headstones.

The public were asked to leave.

9. Chairs report – confidential.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next meeting to be arranged.