

Extract from Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – 10 December 2021

EX174/01 WOODCOCK HILL CEMETERY – PURCHASE OF LAND FOR MUSLIM BURIALS

Members had received a report advising them of an offer made by Batlers Wells Foundation to purchase additional land for Muslim burials. The Committee was asked to agree the proposed sale of the plots within the area of land marked at Appendix A to the report, that the area of land within this section be cleared of scrub and that Batlers Wells Foundation had been asked to meet the costs of clearing the scrub in addition to the purchase costs of the plots. The reasons for the report's recommendations were that, although the Council has a policy of no pre-purchasing of grave spaces, selling this area of plots in bulk to Batlers Wells Foundation would reduce administration time and enable Muslims to be buried as their faith determined. The clearance of scrub would enable more land to be sold and, therefore, provide extra income to the Authority.

Members discussed the proposal and approved the report's recommendations subject to the payment of the cost of clearing the scrub being stipulated as a condition and to officers ensuring that the Trust complied with all the Council's regulations in respect of the use of the cemetery and its grounds, in particular that the Foundation should not permit the pre-purchases of plots.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the plots in the area of land marked as Appendix A to the report be sold to Batlers Wells Foundation for the sum of £41,200;
- (2) that the area of land within this section be cleared of scrub at an approximate cost of £2,000;
- (3) that Batlers Wells Foundation be required, as a condition of the sale, to meet the costs at (2) above in addition to the purchase costs of the plots; and
- (4) that officers be instructed to make clear to the Trust that the usual terms of Council policy would continue to apply, any problems in this regard, should they arise, to be reported back to the Committee.