

S355 Cemetery Advisory Committee Meeting

5 June 2018



Minutes

HELD AT **Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre**

Present

Cr Jo Dodds	Michael Pryke	Barbara Grant
Peter Phillips	Jackie Miles	Nancy Grant
Fiona Firth	Karen Terwin (BVSC Cemetery & Hall Officer)	

Apologies

Darragh Reynolds, Anne Greenaway, Gary Scott-Holland (BVSC Manager Community & Cultural Assets)

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes from 22nd February 2018 Cemetery Advisory Committee Meeting were taken as read -

Moved – **Michael Pryke** Seconded – **Jackie Miles**

2. Business Arising

3.1 Action Items from the previous meeting

ACTION: BVSC to look into Men's Shed supplying markers.

We have found some pavers that can be engraved that we think will suit this purpose; we will order 20 and see how they go.

ACTION: BVSC to ensure contractors are aware of environmental factors during access works at Tantawangalo Cemetery.

Work for this has been awarded and contractors will ensure that there is minimal tree removal of the area. Jackie Miles advised that the area is important ecologically but it is in a pretty bad state.

ACTION: BVSC to review Fees and Charges to calculate if some fees and can be increased to offset others.

BVSC decided to keep the fees as they were for this year. They are currently on public exhibition, we have had one questions regarding these so far.

ACTION: BVSC to look in to availability of Financial Assistance Program and a possible quarantined budget for low cost burials.

There is no Financial Assistance available through Council at all anymore.

MOTION – Propose to seek provision of \$6000.00 P/A for Financial Assistance from cemetery reserve funds.

Moved – Michael Pryke

Second – Fiona Firth

All in favour

ACTION: BVSC to consult with contractor regarding use of whacker packer or similar to flatten graves immediately after burial.

The soil in Pambula and Eden where there are lawn cemeteries is not suitable to be compacted as it has a mostly clay base. In other cemeteries they use crusher dust mixed with the soil as this compact well, places like Rookwood have speciality machines to mix the two materials together. Sand is not suitable for backfilling as the graves fill with water and then become unsafe. Reopens are compacted and turf relayed in most cases.

ACTION: BVSC to consult with the contractor regarding hand digging graves to avoid damaging monuments. Eg. Eden.

This was discussed with WorkCover and they were told that if access is available in any way for plant to dig graves even if it meant parking on top of monuments contractors are to use this option over manual digging. If monuments are cracked or deemed not strong enough to handle the load, contractors will find another route.

3. New Business

Jo recently visited Eltham Cemetery and found a number of different and new options they have employed for burial, interment, memorialisation and landscaping. Jo handed around some photos of the most notable options.

There appeared to be a good use of the land as far as maintenance and mowing and accessible pathways.

There were architectural features, which is something we could look at here. The use of local sculptors and artists to make features within the cemeteries.

It is worth visiting cemeteries around the place, particularly country cemeteries to see what can be done on a smaller budget.

4. Questions

Q. How are the expansion plans going for Bega Cemetery?

A. council engineers are still working on plans and tender for this. Staff did meet with Council's grave digging contractor last week to discuss what can be done in the short term to make more space available, we have identified an area we just need some infrastructure in the form of a structured roadway to access it. Currently there is a grassed road but this becomes problematic in the wet.

We are waiting on the quote for this and then we will move to have works completed so the new section can be utilised, this should open up around 50 new plots giving us a about two years.

Due to changes to Crown Land and the Native Title claims things could potentially become a little harder within our cemeteries as far as approvals to upgrade infrastructure. We are working with the Property Services team to see how changes will affect how we conduct business within cemeteries. We will keep this committee updated on any changes or issues that arise.

Q. Can Robert continue to spread the soil in the north – western area of the Eden Cemetery to try and level it off a bit more? Perhaps build a bit of boundary around the shed to avoid flooding as has happened in the past.

A. BVSC will have a chat to him and see if that would be ok.

5 Meeting Close

11:50am

6 Next Meeting

21st August 2018