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## Cemetery Management Plan Hearings Panel

### OPEN MINUTES

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Cemetery Management Plan held in Committee Room 1, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 31 March 2015 at 9.00am.**

#### PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr L Tooman
Members	Deputy Mayor Gordon Chesterman Cr P Yeung Maree Pene (External-Appointee)
In attendance:	Parks & Open Spaces Manager; Team Leader Planning and Assets; Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager
Also in attendance:	Caryl Ginever, Penny Pollard, Gulab Bilimoria (Director, Billimoria Consulting Limited), Christina Reymer (Zin in New Zealand LP), Peter Forman (Forman and Associates), Katrina Shanks (Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand)
Committee Advisor:	Mr B Stringer

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#### 1. Apologies

An apology from Maree Pene (lateness) was noted.

There were no leaves of absence.

#### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

**Resolved:** (Crs Chesterman/Yeung)

The Committee to confirm the agenda

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

#### 4. Draft Hamilton Cemeteries Management Plan - Hearings report

The following submissions were received:

- a. **Caryl Ginever** spoke to her submission in support of the proposed function centre in the Plan and the importance of that centre to be easy to access and use.
- b. **Penny Pollard** spoke to her submission on the importance of cemeteries for families and that there should not be an increase in charges. She also noted that cemeteries needed to better cater for people with disabilities.
- c. **Gulab Bilimoria** spoke to the submission from the Waikato Bay of Plenty Sangam Charitable Trust Board in support of the Plan and a presentation which was tabled. Mr Bilimoria advised that the proposed shrine at the Newstead Crematorium would satisfy the criteria that was set down in the Plan and that the shrine would not be visible from State Highway 26.
- d. **Peter Forman** spoke to the submission from Forman and Associates. He highlighted and responded to questions on the following points:
  - i. Mr Forman asserted that there were elements of the Plan which did not comply with current law. The Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager responded that the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 (the Act) permitted territorial authorities to develop services in support of the provision of cemetery and burial functions. The Manager also noted that the services questioned by Mr Forman were currently provided by a number of other authorities. Mr Forman acknowledged that he had not provided submissions to other authorities.
  - ii. Mr Forman did not support ratepayer contribution to burial services and suggested this created inequities in the community. He believed this would be resolved by requiring full cost recovery from individual users.
  - iii. Mr Forman considered there were elements of the Plan which were inconsistent with Council's broader strategies including the provision of non-core services.
  - iv. Mr Forman also requested that the Plan was more transparent in terms of how recommendations had been reached.
- e. **Christina Reymer**, supported by her sister Teresa, spoke to the submission from Zin in New Zealand LP and noted their concern that the Plan's function centre would be in direct competition with local businesses.
- f. **Katrina Shanks**, supported by Mark Rainsville, spoke to the submission from the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand. The following issues were discussed:
  - i. It was claimed the Council burial plot fees made burial unaffordable for many and that the proposed future developments would increase funeral costs. The Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager provided benchmarking information in relation to Council fees as compared to other authorities.
  - ii. They did not agree with full cost recovery from Hamilton residents though were agreeable to an 'out-of-district' fee from individuals and suggested that the provision of a range of plots at different costs would make burial a feasible option for many that currently were excluded.

**Resolved:** (Crs Chesterman/Yeung)

That:

- a) the Report be received; and
- b) the Hearings Panel hears submissions to the draft Hamilton Cemeteries Management Plan.

**Maree Pene arrived at the Meeting (9:10am) during the presentation of the verbal submissions in the above item.**

**The Meeting adjourned from 10:40am to 11:05am at the conclusion of the above item.**

**5. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved:** (Crs Chesterman/ Yeung)

**Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely the Deliberations and Decision-Making in relation to the Draft Hamilton Cemeteries Management Plan.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section the passing of this resolu
5. Draft Hamilton Cemeteries Management Plan - Deliberations and Decision-Making	) Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(d) and 48(2)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item 5	To enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation	Section 48 (1) (d) Section 48 (2)
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**The Meeting moved to Public Excluded from 11:08am to 12:25pm**