

# CONFIRMED MINUTES

## FRIENDS OF LAVERTON CEMETERY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Held at Shire of Laverton Council Chambers

Thursday 30 July 2015, 4:00pm

### 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

4.00pm The chairman, Rob Wedge, declared the meeting open.

Rob Wedge thanked the Group for appointing him to be the Chairman of this new Group.

### 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Rob Wedge  
Georgina Ashwin  
Cr Patrick Hill  
Bert Davis  
Carol Hill  
Rod Hill  
Rex Weldon  
Joanna Seczkowski, staff

Apologies Gordon Briggs  
Cr Beatrice Fuamatu  
Cr Geoff Walder

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1

**Moved by Rex Weldon, Seconded by Rod Hill;**

**That with the amendment of adding Cr Patrick Hill as an apology the Minutes of 9 July 2015, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.**

**CARRIED 7/0**

3.2

No Business arising from the Minutes of 9 July 2015, other than the site visit (point 4).

### 4. SITE VISIT

Consideration given to a suggestion of adding the issue of some unknown locations of burial plots, to the site visit agenda. The Shire of Laverton CEO, Steve Deckert's

comments from the previous meeting, about burial plots being an internal administration issue rather than a concern of the Advisory Group were discussed.

Consensus to not address the specifics of burial plot locations was the conclusion because it was acknowledged this known issue is not within the Group's terms of reference.

The Group confirmed that the following points will guide the site visit

- Discuss areas that are potential for gardens, memorial/niche wall and paths
- Discuss potential vehicle access
- Discuss boundaries of cemetery & where water was

4.20pm Everyone assembled at the Laverton Cemetery.

Notes from informal conversations at the Cemetery:

- Tin fencing replaced barb wire fencing, closest to the Archway in 2013
- Blue metal on future carparks should be considered
- For pre-booking burial plots, approach the Shire separately to complete the necessary paperwork
- Paths between the different areas, such as the Archway to the southernmost corner and through the middle needed to link up the sections of the cemetery
- Less need or possibly no need at all for any paths between rows of graves
- In the central area of the cemetery, where all of the cemetery can be viewed, it is ideal for a shade shelter
- The old shade shelter is not ideal due to its old appearance
- Drinking water could be provided in this central area
- Many different types of memorials will be considered with a strong consensus towards seeing if local rock can be used in the memorial
- Consensus that the memorial need not be "just a brick wall" with a garden
- There is a possibility to also acknowledge that there are unknown graves in the cemetery
- Various locations for the memorial area were discussed
- Information boards and possibly interpretative boards to help visitors to the cemetery will be considered
- Maintenance of graves was questioned; should it be a family's responsibility or something the Shire could assist with
- Ideas of tidying up graves, such as lowering the height of the stones on many graves and adding cement borders to each grave were considered
- Internal roads within the cemetery could be cracker dust or blue metal
- Vehicle access was discussed; agreed there were different users needing different access such as the hearse and people with disabilities, mourners, casual visitors and Shire staff
- The water washout areas and creek bed within the cemetery were discussed
- The offer of headstones being made through employment programs such as GETS, was mentioned

- Gardens will require planning for low water use, low maintenance and maximum colour for long periods
- Solar lights that are vandal proof were mentioned

## **5. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF IDEAS FOR THE CEMETERY**

5.05pm Return to Chambers

Two tasks came out of the site visit:

1. Each Advisory Group member to mark out on their aerial photo of the cemetery, the preferred location of infrastructure. Those draft plans will be the focus of the next meeting
2. Joanna is asked to bring photos of the variety of memorial and/or niche walls, for Advisory Groups to consider

Rob Wedge noted that the objective at this stage is to work towards having a draft plan that can then go out to the community for their feedback. He noted that this period of making the plan does not need to be rushed and that the Advisory Group can consider all ideas, as they mark out their ideas on paper ready for the next discussion.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be 19 August, 5pm

## **7. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 5.20pm.