

## **Environment & Regeneration Select Committee**

A meeting of Environment & Regeneration Select Committee was held on Monday, 8th January, 2007.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs J Beaumont (Chairman), Cllr D Cains, Cllr J A Fletcher, Cllr W Noble, Cllr R Rix, Cllr Mrs B Robinson, Cllr F G Salt, Cllr M Smith, Cllr B Woodhead.

**Officers:** S Daniels, A Gibson, J Robins (DNS); P K Bell, J Trainer (LD).

**Also in attendance:** No other persons were present.

**Apologies:** Cllr Larkin, Cllr Leckonby, Cllr Mrs Norton, Cllr Walmsley.

### **890 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Review of Cemeteries and Memorials as he was a Member of Eggescliffe Parish Church.

### **891 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2006.**

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2006.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be forwarded to Council for consideration.

### **892 Review of Cemeteries and Memorials.**

As part of the review of cemeteries and memorials Members visited the following sites prior to the meeting:-

Oxbridge Lane Cemetery, Oxbridge Lane, Stockton-on-Tees

Durham Road Cemetery, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees

Billingham Cemetery, Wolviston Back Lane, Billingham

Thornaby Cemetery, Acklam Road, Thornaby

Eggescliffe Cemetery, Butts Lane, Eggescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees

At the meeting Members were presented with the following documents:-

1. Cemeteries background report
2. Cemeteries 5 year Improvement Plan
3. Review - Parks and Cemetery Lodges
4. Rules and Regulations in respect of Borough Cemeteries

J Robins (Registration and Bereavement Manager) gave Members a presentation on The Future Development of Cemeteries. The presentation

covered the following key areas:-

1. Historic Background Information
2. Management of Cemeteries
3. Description of Cemeteries
4. Closed Churchyards
5. Burial Statistics
6. Life Expectancy of Cemeteries
7. Fees Comparison - Tees Valley
8. Funeral Booking Times
9. Saturday Morning Burials (1996 - 2006)
10. Islamic/Hebrew Funerals
11. Future Development of Cemeteries

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the various aspects of the presentation. Also in attendance to help answer any questions and make comments were S Daniels (Performance and Business Services - DNS) and A Gibson (Bereavement Services Officer).

Members thanked the Officers for the presentation and all the background documents that had been supplied.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The background documents be received.
2. The presentation be received.