

CHILTERN'S CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

MEETING 23RD SEPTEMBER 2010

OPEN REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

Background Papers (if any) are specified at the end of each item

1 MILTON FUNERAL CHAPEL: COMPLETION OF BUILDING WORKS

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1.1 A report to the Joint Committee at its meeting on 30th July 2010 (Minute ? refers), outlined details of the last remaining unresolved defect which had manifested itself with the grouting coming out from between the ceramic floor tiles in the Milton chapel. The report explained that remedial works (at the architect and builders cost) had proved unsuccessful with continuing deterioration of the floor to the extent that tiles were beginning to show visible movement.

1.2 At the time of writing the report plans were in place for sample floor tiles to be lifted in various places across the floor, in the presence of all interested parties, to establish exactly what the problem was before deciding how best to resolve it. This investigation had been carried out by the time of the meeting when the Superintendent was able to give a verbal update on the situation and advise members that the problem appeared to extend beyond the tiles to the floor construction beneath. Remedial action would require as a minimum replacing the floor screed beneath the tiled areas before new tiles could be laid. The worse case scenario would be the renewal of the whole floor including the heating pipes buried within it, and not only in the chapel but also in the surrounding ancillary rooms into which the heating system extends.

3.3 The original building contractor was Collier and Catley of Reading who were bought out by Thomas Vale in the middle of the construction project in 2004. With the closure of the Collier and Catley Division of Thomas Vale in August there was concern about who would pay for the remedial works. However, the officers are pleased to report that Thomas Vale have now confirmed that they accept liability for the defects and intend to carry out the necessary remedial work at their cost.

3.4 Further investigative work now needs to be done to establish the extent of the necessary works, and then to design and carry them out. In order to cause the least disruption to funerals it is intended that these works will be implemented in the summer of 2011, by which time the installation of the cremator abatement equipment should also have been completed. The minimum remedial works would only take weeks, but should the worse case scenario works be required then this could take several months. Over such a long period disruption to funerals and loss of some business to surrounding crematoria would be unavoidable.

3. This item is included for information. A further report will be submitted to the Joint Committee at a future meeting when the full extent of the works, and any potential financial implications, are known.

Background Papers: None