

CHILTERN'S CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

MEETING 24TH JANUARY 2012

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

5.4. ADDITIONAL FUNERAL SERVICE TIME

Contact Officer: Charles Howlett (01494) 724263

4.1 Increasingly requests are being received for additional service time i.e. 90 minutes instead of the normal 45 minutes. Many crematoria allow this and charge a fee for doing so.

4.2 Historically the policy at Chilterns has been not to allow additional service time because of the potential to restrict availability for cremation services, causing unacceptable delays between the time of death and the funeral. This was particularly pertinent before the Milton chapel was built, prior to which the Chilterns Crematorium had for many years been the busiest in the UK with only one funeral chapel. With the extension of the service times from thirty to forty five minutes when the Milton chapel opened in 2005 there was little consideration of needing even more time and so the policy remained unchanged. However, as has been reported since, during the intervening six years funerals are changing with a number of consequences, one of which is that even forty five minutes is sometimes not long enough.

4.3 In response to the level of requests being received the Superintendent has reviewed the situation and decided that with two chapels making more service times available there is no reason not to allow additional service time, with the proviso that the Superintendent be given the discretion to temporarily suspend bookings for additional time during periods of peak demand for cremation, as was similarly agreed when allowing the chapel to be used for burial services (Minute 21, meeting on 24th February 2010 refers).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Joint Committee allow the Crematorium chapels to be booked for additional funeral service time.**
- 2. A fee of £150.00 is charged for an additional 45 minutes.**
- 3. The Superintendent be given discretion to temporarily suspend bookings for additional funeral service time during periods of peak demand for cremation.**

Background Papers: None