

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Pet Cemetery and Crematorium
Committee : Services
Date : 22 Jun 2020
Author : Annie Child, City Clerk

1. Report Summary:

1.1. This report considers whether Salisbury City Council (SCC) should investigate further the provision a pet cemetery and/or pet cremation unit for Salisbury.

2. Background:

- 2.1. Pet cremation and pet burial are an established business and offer SCC an opportunity to increase its income and reduce the reliance on the precept through trading activity. As the City Council holds the General Power of Competence it is legally able to provide these services.
- 2.2. According to the Guardian ([Feb 2005](#)) in an article published in 2005 so now dated, an estimated 1.5 million pet dogs and cats that die each year in the UK. Of those 300,000 are buried in the garden, 1,000 in pet cemeteries, 100,000 are individually cremated and the rest disposed of as clinical waste, usually via mass incinerations and sometimes in landfill sites.
- 2.3. Some people cannot bury their pet at home because they do not own their property or because their pet is hazardous to human health, i.e. has had chemo or been euthanized with controlled drugs.

3. Pet Cemetery and Cremation – an overview of their services:

- 3.1. Pets which can be cremated or buried include dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, pet birds, lizards, degu and snakes. The limiting factors will be the size of the cremator and the weight to the pet. Horses, ponies and donkey are not suitable for this type of cremation. Cows, pigs and sheep are subject different controls by DEFRA.
- 3.2. Pet animals may be buried. A pet animal is defined in the regulations as “any animal belonging to a species normally nourished and kept, but not consumed, by humans for purposes other than farming”. This does not apply to farm animals such as sheep, cows, pigs, goats and poultry.
- 3.3. Farm animals must be disposed of using an approved disposal method for fallen stock.
- 3.4. There are 4 general options available at existing pet cemeteries

- 3.4.1. Full burial with coffin and memorial with dedicated space allocated to individual pet
- 3.4.2. Unmarked burial – the owner is notified to which area of the garden the burial has taken place. This is not marked and these areas are generally for multiple burials
- 3.4.3. Ash burial – with a memorial with dedicated space allocated to individual pet
- 3.4.4. Ash scattering – the owner is notified of the general area that the scattering has taken place. This is not marked.
- 3.5. Other providers also offer green burial where the pet is wrapped in a covering and placed into grave within a memorial garden. The spot can be marked by a scrub but there is no memorial plaque.
- 3.6. Fees for a service provider in Devon range from £305 for a tiny (below 1Kg) green burial to £735 for a formal (50+Kg) pet burial. Cemeteries also charge annual maintenance fees for the upkeep of the dedicated plot.
- 3.7. Pet cemeteries and crematoria are regulated through the Animal By Product Regulations 2013 which describe location specifications for cemeteries and other matters. There are licensed by DEFRA and the Animal and Plant Health Agency. Further details can be seen [here](#)
- 3.8. The Association Of Private Pet Cemeteries And Crematoria is the industry body for providers – see their website for further details <https://appcc.org.uk/>
- 3.9. This service could be complimentary to the existing Crematorium and Cemeteries services managed by the council.
- 3.10. Some pet cemeteries and pet crematorium are co-located with human facilities and this option can be considered for Salisbury. Indeed some providers offer pet burial alongside people.

4. Next Steps:

- 4.1. If the Committee approves the recommendation shown below, the officers will prepare an outline project plan for a pet cemetery and/or pet cremation service.
- 4.2. This will identify possible locations within the parish for burial, a prediction of income and expenditure, a review of the risks, and the timeline for implementation and delivery. The project plan may advocate a phased approach beginning with simple burials and building the business as the Council further understand the needs of the market.
- 4.3. Once prepared this plan will be presented to this Committee or Full Council to consider whether this service should be delivered as described in the business case.

5. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 5.1. Instruct officer to consider in detail the viability and feasibility of a pet cemetery and /or pet cremation service for Salisbury.

6. **Wards Affected:** All

7. **Background Papers:** Nil

8. **Implications:**

8.1. **Financial:** To be determined

8.2. **Personnel:** to be determined

8.3. **Environmental Impact:** Nil in relation to this report, but substantially will be a material consideration in the evaluation

8.4. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Nil in relation to this report.