INSTITUTE OF CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM MANAGEMENT
SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THANET
CREMATORIUM ON SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2006

Members present:   36
Apologies:              12

1. Welcome

   Steve Brown, Branch Secretary, welcomed members and guests. Ken West, Branch Chairman, took the chair.

2. Last Minutes

   Minutes of the Branch A.G.M., held at Imperial College Charing Cross Campus, London, on 24th November 2005 were agreed.

3. Election of Branch Chairman

   The Steering Group nomination of Mike Grimwood was proposed, seconded and agreed by members. Mike is based at Ipswich and is not therefore strictly within the South Eastern Region, and was unfortunately unable to attend today’s meeting due to illness, but has indicated his pleasure at accepting the position. Ken West remained in the chair in Mike’s absence.

4. Election of Branch Secretary

   Steve Brown indicated that he would be pleased to continue in post, and there being no other nominations was proposed, seconded and unanimously voted in by members.

5. Branch Steering Group

   The names of the current Steering Group were read out and it was agreed that they remain in post. However, members were encouraged to join the group, and anyone interested was asked to give their name to the secretary.
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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD AT THANET CREMATORIUM ON SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2006

Members present:

Apologies:

1. Welcome

Ken West, Acting Branch Chairman, introduced Cllr. Latchford, Deputy Leader of Thanet District Council, who welcomed Institute members and guests to Thanet. He hoped the morning cemetery tour led by the Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust had been interesting and outlined some of the Council’s achievement and future plans. Due to further engagements that afternoon he was unable to stay but wished everyone a successful meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at Salisbury Crematorium on 30th September 2006 were agreed.

3. New Members

The following were welcomed to their first meeting:-

Liz Taylor – Nunhead Cemetery
Valerie Constable – Lewisham Crematorium

4. Presidential Address

The Institute Present, Cllr. Till, was unfortunately unable to be present, but Dave McCarthy, Deputy President, spoke in his place. He thanked the Mayor and Mayoress of Margate for accompanying branch members and guests on the morning’s tour of the cemetery, and Cllr. and Mrs. Latchford for their welcome to the Annual General and Branch Meetings. He outlined some of the history of the Institute and then moved on to advise members of a proposal being considered by the Board to join with the Federation of British Cremation Authorities to form one organisation. The Federation will be asked to consult its membership and Institute members were likewise urged to respond when contacted by the Institute for their views.
5. Up-dates from the ICCM - Tim Morris

(a) Body Parts – The question of identified but unclaimed body parts was raised once more. It appears that families have not been advised of the existence of body parts, and this prevents lawful cremation. The Institute’s advice to members is to take no action on any requests at present.

(b) CTTS Course – Tim outlined details of the current course and the advanced course. The advanced course is considered a stepping stone for operators looking to progress to management positions. Some discussion took place concerning reserve operators in the event of a flu pandemic being offered a shortened course but it was pointed out that a shortened course would not attract accreditation.

6. Open Forum

(a) Discussion took place concerning any possible merger between the ICCM and Federation, and analogies in other parts of the industry were drawn.

(b) The morning’s tour of Margate Cemetery precipitated general discussion on grave re-use.

© Alternative means of cremation being investigated within the industry were discussed.

(c) Members asked if other authorities had pandemic plans in place. It would seem from the response that few if any cemeteries and crematoria have yet finalised these arrangements.

7. Any Other Business

(a) Future Meetings – A list for 2007 was handed out to members. It was again stressed that new faces on the Steering Group would be most welcome. Steve as Branch Secretary advised that email was the most efficient means of contact, and asked that members keep him up-dated on any changes.

(b) Charles Howlett gave a resume of Hilary Luck’s career and long association with the Institute as she retires at the end of November. Hilary was presented with a card and gifts from the branch which were very much appreciated.

8. Vote of Thanks

Leita Honey, on behalf of members and guests, thanked the management and staff of Thanet Crematorium for their hospitality, the Friends of Margate Cemetery for the morning’s tour, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Thanet and
Cllr. Latchford, Deputy Leader, and Mrs. Latchford for their welcome. The meeting closed.