

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 8.38 PM**

Present: Councillors Mr S Laycock (Chair), Mrs A Vale (Vice-Chair) Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Paxton, Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio), Ms G Widdowfield (ex-officio)

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

22/319 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Rudd.

22/320 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None declared.

22/321 MATTERS ARISING

Minute point: 22/212 Blooming Barton kindly donated the spring flower bulbs for the Garden of Rests memorial rose beds, which have been planted up. They were thanked for their donation.

22/322 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th OCTOBER 2022

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 24th October **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale with **5 in favour and 1 abstention**. The minutes were approved.

22/323 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BURIAL GROUND, CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL INSPECTIONS

The inspections undertaken on 14th November were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

22/324 TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK ON THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The Assistant Clerk, Clerk and Groundsman were thanked for organising the service, which was very well attended this year.

Central Bedfordshire Councils Highways Team had provided barriers and road signs, but they have indicated that they will not be available for use next year. The Assistant Clerk will investigate the cost to purchase cones or barriers and the signage needed.

Demand for Police resources for road closures was very high this year, and units were allocated on a priority basis. Barton was considered low priority however they were able to assign two Officers to man the Luton Road closure. It is unlikely that the Police will be able to offer assistance next year, due to the demand for units in higher priority parishes but they advise that a review will be undertaken to determine where resources will be sent.

The Assistant Clerk provided feedback and suggestions for future services which will be implemented next year.

22/325 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST FOR CAR PARK RESURFACING

The quotation was unavailable.

22/326 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BENCH POLICY AND BENCH PACKAGE FOR THE BURIAL GROUND

The draft Bench Policy was reviewed and minor amendments made. Members agreed that wooden benches should continue to be used in the Burial Ground and that the Cranbrook 3 seat wooden bench would be offered in the Bench Package. The cost for installation and ongoing maintenance for a 10-year period was agreed at £250.00 which would be a one off payment.

Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the Bench Policy, with amendments as agreed. He then **PROPOSED** approval of the Bench Package to include the Cranbrook 3 seat bench, sundries and a £250.00 installation and maintenance fee for a 10-year period, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Widdowfield left the meeting at 9.07 pm

22/327 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A NEW ASHES GRAVE

The request for a new cremated remains grave in the old Garden of Rest was considered. Following discussion Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** that permission should be granted as the records indicate

that the grave space was wrongly allocated, and no burials have taken place. Councillor Thomas **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/328 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2022/23 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2023/24

The expenditure was reviewed. There have been a higher number of burials again this year due to the pandemic which has resulted in higher income than usual. Tree works have been carried out in the Burial Ground and spring bulbs (and mulch) planted in the garden of rest. The costs for the Remembrance Sunday service were within budget and hedge cutting will begin soon.

Budgets for 2023/24 allow for a 10% increase in grounds maintenance costs, and funds towards topple testing and the burial ground extension project.

Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2023/24 Burial Grounds Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £1,050 committee precept which is a reduction of £55 on the current year. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/329 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.19 pm