

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 8.13 PM**

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

**Attending:** Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**22/502 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – all members were present.

**22/503 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None declared.

**22/504 MATTERS ARISING**

The annual hedge cutting in the Burial Ground and Churchyard and the reduction in the hedge height on the public right of way side has been completed as agreed.

**22/505 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner with **6 in favour and 2 abstentions**. The minutes were approved.

**22/506 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BURIAL GROUND, CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL INSPECTIONS**

The inspections, undertaken by the Groundsman on 20<sup>th</sup> February were acknowledged. Everything was in order in the Burial Ground and War Memorial, the marked-up headstones in the Garden of Rest at the Churchyard, were noted as safe.

**22/507 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SECOND MEMORIAL WITHIN A GRAVE SPACE**

The committee considered the request to erect a second memorial (wedge style plaque) within a grave (in the Old Section) which already has a headstone and kerb set. The burial of ashes has been permitted under the headstone area as the grave is full and the applicant had been advised that a 12"x12" flat plaque or 15"x15" vase with inscription would be permitted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> burial as there is insufficient space on the existing memorial.

The request was discussed at length and members considered how the larger wedge plaque would fit with the existing headstone and the Regulations in force, which were last reviewed in January 2023. Although the committee were sympathetic to the request, all agreed that the Regulations must be followed for all applicants and regrettably there was no option other than to deny the request.

Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** that the request be denied, and the applicant offered either a flat plaque 12"x12" or Vase 15"x15", in line with the Regulations. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**22/508 TO CONSIDER THE REFURBISHMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AREA AND AGREE ACTIONS**

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) confirmed that the war memorial area is under their ownership, and they are happy to consider and support the Parish Council with their refurbishment plans. A query regarding maintenance of the shrubs had been referred to CBC's Environmental team and the Tree Officer has advised that the tree stumps will be removed, along with the acacia tree which is in poor condition. The leaning waste bin has been reported to CBC.

The committee are looking to improve the area and make it a focal point for the village and therefore discussed several ideas to improve the memorial, the surrounding trees and shrubs, and seating. Following discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- ask Central Beds Council whether they would be in favour of removing the shrubs, to open up the area
- seek a quote to jetwash the paving
- investigate the options for railings or similar around the memorial

- seek a quote for two new 'focal point' benches
- seek a quote for two round planters, to match the benches

**ACTION: Assistant Clerk to seek quotes as above and investigate the options for low level railings around the War Memorial. Item to be reviewed at the next committee meeting.**

**22/509 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**  
None.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm