

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.31 PM**

Present: Councillors S Laycock (Chair), W Rudd (Vice-chair), B Thomas, J Mikkelson

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

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

23/304 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors G Gardner, A Vale, J Paxton and N Day

23/305 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None declared.

23/306 MATTERS ARISING – there were none.

23/307 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2023

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 18th September 2023 **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas with 2 in favour and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved.

23/308 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INSPECTIONS OF THE CHURCHYARD, BURIAL GROUND AND WAR MEMORIAL

The inspections undertaken on 21st November were acknowledged. Fallen leaves at each location were noted as need clearing. Everything else was in order.

23/309 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Despite the poor weather, the numbers attending were very good again. The service had run smoothly, and new road signage, barriers and marshals had worked well. Feedback from residents was positive and no issues had been reported.

23/310 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR TREE WORKS AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Three quotes had been provided and were considered. Central Bedfordshire Tree Officer for Planning confirmed that a planning application will be needed for the tree overhanging the highway, all other work is permitted without planning approval. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to progress the Planning Application and permission from the Diocese.**

Following discussion Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** that the quotation from Jempsons Tree Services at a cost of £550 + VAT should be accepted. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/311 TO REVIEW THE RUBBISH COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL GROUND AND CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF WASTE BINS

Following ongoing issues with the waste collection at the Burial Ground, members considered whether rubbish bins should be installed to replace the waste cart. Following discussion Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the purchase of two double Derby Cemetery Bins from Broxap at a cost of £599.00 + VAT each, laser cut logo or lettering at £49.00 each, fixing kits at £9.95 each and delivery cost of £92.00. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. **ACTION: contract for the waste cart to be cancelled as soon as possible.**

Councillor J Mikkelson arrived at 8.08pm

23/312 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2023/24 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2024/25

The expenditure was reviewed. In 2022 there had been a larger number of burials, due to the pandemic but in 2023 levels have returned to normal. The tree survey of St Nicholas Churchyard and Garden had been brought forward, at the request of the Church, and minor work to trees will be carried out within the 2023/24 budget.

The budgets for 2024/25 allow for a 5% increase in grounds maintenance costs, funds towards topple testing in the Churchyard and Burial Ground and the Burial Ground extension project.

Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2024/25 Burial Grounds Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £1,090 committee precept which represents a £40 increase on last year. Councillor Thomas **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/313 TO CONSIDER THE 2024 BEACON LIGHTING TO COMMEMORATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

A number of suggestions for the event on 6th June 2024 were briefly discussed. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the item should be discussed at the next meeting.

23/314 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA
None.

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm