

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, LUTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD
ON MONDAY 7th JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.28pm

Present: Councillors W Rudd (Vice-chair), G Gardner, B Thomas, A Vale, J Paxton (ex-officio)

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Councillor A Tebb

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/096 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors S Laycock, K Qureshi & J Mikkelson

25/097 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None declared.

25/098 MATTERS ARISING

The faculty application to refix memorials within St Nicholas Churchyard is in the notice period which will end on 25th July. Providing there are no objections the faculty will be issued by St Albans Diocese and work to refix memorials can be booked in. To date seven families have contacted the Parish Office regarding their family memorials and agreed to the work being carried out. Costs will be recovered wherever possible.

During the church fete on 28th June the fire engine became tangled with low branches on the Indian Bean Tree on the access road. Branches had to be cut to free up the vehicle, but additional cutting is needed urgently. The Assistant Clerk reported consent had been granted earlier that day by Central Bedfordshire Councils Landscape Officer, subject to checks for any birds nesting. Jempson Tree Services will be appointed to carry out the work.

24/099 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th APRIL 2025

There were no queries. Councillor Rudd **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds Committee meeting held on 28th April 2025 **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner with **3 IN FAVOUR AND 2 ABSTENTIONS** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

25/100 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INSPECTIONS OF THE BURIAL GROUND, CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL

The inspections, undertaken by the Groundsmen on 16th June and 1st July were acknowledged. At the Churchyard on 16th June the bench in the garden of rest was noted as needs cleaning. In the Burial Ground on 1st July the grass was noted as needs cutting and strimming. Everything else was in order including the War Memorial.

25/101 TO CONSIDER REQUEST REGARDING A MEMORIAL FOR AN EXISTING GRAVE IN THE BURIAL GROUND

Following a recent burial within a grave in the old section of the Burial Ground, the original kerb set which includes a bird bath was removed. The family are seeking permission to retain the bird bath on the grave, when the new memorial is installed. The original kerb set will not be reinstated. Members reviewed the request, and photographs of the memorial when it was installed in 1965. Following discussion, it was agreed that the request should be approved, however more information on where the bird bath will be located within the grave space should be requested from the stone mason.

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the request, subject to the receipt of information on the location for the bird bath. Councillor Gardner **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION: Stone mason to be asked to provide details of where the bird bath will be located within the gravespace.

25/102 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY AND CONSIDER/APPROVE ANY COSTS

The library is planning a children's craft event and a coffee morning to mark the 80th anniversary on 15th August. The Assistant Clerk will liaise with them and advertise as necessary. Members were asked to attend the events to support the library.

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the War Memorial area will be decorated, similar to VE Day 80th anniversary and a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council on 15th August.

Members reviewed the VJ merchandise available to purchase from the Royal British Legion. Following discussion, Councillor Rudd **PROPOSED** the approval of a budget of up to £40 to purchase a VJ Day flag, 2 lamp post signs and bunting which will be displayed at the War Memorial. Councillor Thomas **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor A Tebb arrived at 7.51pm

25/103 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT MEMORIAL TESTING AND INSTALLATION POLICY FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

The draft policy, prepared by the Assistant Clerk was reviewed. A minor typo was noted on point 1.1, there were no other queries or amendments. Councillor Rudd **PROPOSED** the approval of the Parish Councils Memorial Testing and Installation Policy version 1, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The policy will be reviewed and adopted at the July Full Council meeting.

25/104 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

The annual remembrance Sunday service will be discussed at the next meeting. There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 7.56pm