

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.14 PM**

Present: Councillors Mr A Channon (Chair), Mrs B Thomas (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio)

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

19/544 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were received from Councillor Paxton

19/545 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

19/546 MATTERS ARISING

Two memorial benches in the Burial Ground have been removed as they are beyond repair. The families have been informed and given the option to replace if they wish.

Concerns were raised over a horse chestnut tree by the war memorial which does not look in good health. Central Bedfordshire Council's Tree Officer has assessed the tree and reports that it is currently stable but he will continue to monitor.

The Faculty for topple testing of memorials in St Nicholas Churchyard and works arising from this has now been granted. Topple testing will take place on Tuesday 11th February, a notice will be displayed on the Church notice board advising of the date.

Following feedback from a walkabout undertaken by Councillors Thomas and Davison-Williams over the Christmas period the Groundsman has now cut back low branches on various trees in the Burial Ground.

The office received a report of vandalism to a headstone whereby nail varnish was poured over the stone. The incident is likely to have taken place over the weekend 25th/26th January. There were no further reports of vandalism and the family have been asked to keep the office informed of any further problems.

The Assistant Clerk updated members on the repairs necessary to St Nicholas Church Peace Clock which is currently not working. They plan to instruct a new contractor to carry out the repair and hope it will be in good working order soon.

19/547 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER 2019

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 25th November 2019. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

19/548 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD INSPECTIONS

The Burial Ground and Churchyard inspections undertaken on 17th and 29th January were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

19/549 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WAR MEMORIAL INSPECTION

The War Memorial inspections undertaken on 17th and 29th January were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

19/550 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST FOR ROAD NEW SIGN TO THE CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND

The proposed artwork for the new sign was considered. Members agreed that the preferred sign should read St Nicholas Church rather than Parish Church & Burial Ground. A separate sign will be needed for the Burial Ground due to a lack of space. It was unclear whether a post is already in situ, Assistant Clerk to check with Highways. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to organise revised artwork and costs for approval at the Full Council meeting on 10th February.**

19/551 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTATION FOR TREE WORKS IN ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

Two quotes for essential tree works were considered. Following discussion Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the quotation from Jempson's Tree Services at a cost of £260.00 + VAT should be accepted. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Work to include; remove limb with split back to the main trunk on tree number 2344, remove broken dead branch and lightly lift crown of yew tree number 2333 and clear away all arisings.

19/552 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION TO REDUCE THE WIDTH OF SECTION OF BEECH HEDGE IN THE BURIAL GROUND

Three quotes were provided to reduce the width of a section of beech hedge in the burial ground by approximately 1 metre depth. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the quotation from Reynolds Landscaping at a cost of £250.00 + VAT be accepted. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/553 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next committee meeting in February to include the long term strategy for the burial ground and the review of Burial Ground Fees and Regulations.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm