

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE  
ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.37 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mr A Channon (Chair), Mrs B Thomas (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Paxton & Mr S Laycock

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

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**20/550 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillor Mr L Davison-Williams

**20/551 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were none.

**20/552 MATTERS ARISING**

At the previous meeting members asked for more information regarding the availability of the soldier statues. There are a number of suppliers who can provide bespoke and off the shelf statues so there is no urgency to purchase at this time. The committee agreed to review the war memorial area at a later date.

The office was made aware of a small tree within St Nicholas Churchyard which is dropping branches and overhanging the road. Advice from Central Bedfordshire Councils Tree Officer was sought and he advised that the dead wood and obstructive branches could be removed. The Groundsman will action this before bird nesting season begins in March.

Following previous tree works in the churchyard when a tree was felled and stump ground, there is a large area to be reseeded. The Groundsman viewed the area and has agreed that he can complete the work. He will action as soon as possible.

At the January committee meeting the quotation for the tree survey of St Nicholas Churchyard and Garden was approved. How the cost would be met; solely by the Parish Council or split with the Church was not discussed at that time. As the previous survey in 2018 was arranged and paid for fully by the Church, the committee agreed that the cost of the 2021 survey should be met by the Parish Council. Future survey costs will be split with the Church, any tree work arising from the survey will also be split.

**20/553 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock with **4 in favour and 1 abstention**. The minutes were approved.

**20/554 UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND STRATEGY AND AGREE THE NEXT STAGE**

Councillor Channon provided an update on burial rates and trends, the size of site required to meet Bartons' 100 year burial need and he narrowed down the number of potential sites which could be suitable. Following this analysis Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that sites G, K, C, and H should be removed from further analysis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The Ground water risk assessments for some of the identified sites was unknown, the Assistant Clerk was asked to request the information from Cemetery Development Services. The next stage of the project was agreed; to organise ground water risk assessments for the remaining sites (a cost may be involved for this information) and to make an informal approach to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the project. Councillor Channon was thanked for his hard work and time spent analysing the information to enable the project to move forward. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to make approach to Central Bedfordshire Council, organise the groundwater risk assessments for remaining sites and to provide approximate costs for the project. Information to be discussed at the next committee meeting.**

**20/555 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**  
There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm