

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

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

Attending: Mrs C Callen (Parish Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs C Callen

18/507 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr D Gunter and Mrs G Gardner

18/508 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

18/509 MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

18/510 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st JANUARY 2019

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 21st January, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas with **3 members in favour and 1 abstention**.

18/511 REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND FEES FOR 2019/20

Details of the current fee structure and a comparison with neighbouring burial grounds fees were provided ahead of the meeting. Members discussed the fee structure and considered future capital expenditure and maintenance costs. Councillor Channon suggested that a longer-term assessment was required to fully understand what fees should be payable and this will be completed over the coming months. Therefore, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** an increase in line with inflation, with rounding to the nearest £1, be applied for the coming year. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/512 TO CONSIDER BURIAL POLICY AND RATES FOR SHARPENHOE RESIDENTS

Sharpenhoe residents were previously covered by Streatley but their graveyard has now been closed. Streatley Parish Council have advised that there are 46 properties in Sharpenhoe, with 89 adult residents. Members debated a possible change to the current policy but decided that at the present time they continue to look at any requests in line with the current policy on a case by case basis and subject to the normal 5x multiplier for non-residents.

18/513 TO CONSIDER ARRANGING REVIEW MEETING WITH ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REGARDING CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

In line with the Management Plan drawn up regarding St Nicholas Closed Churchyard, bi-annual review meetings should be held between representatives of the Parish Council and St Nicholas PCC. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** a review meeting be organised with the Rector and Churchwardens from St Nicholas and the Chair of the Burial Grounds Committee and Clerk from the Parish Council. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/514 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FOR REMOVAL AND REPLANTING OF ROSES WITHIN THE BURIAL GROUNDS GARDEN OF REST

A Quotation has been received to replace the standard roses within the Garden of Rest. Further details (including pictures) of the colour, style and scent of the suggested roses is required. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** a maximum spend of £300 be pre-approved to purchase the roses from Cottage Farm Plants & Nursery, delegating the purchase to be undertaken by Councillor Thomas and the Assistant Clerk once the final details have been received. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Furthermore, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** a maximum cost of £300 be approved for a contractor to remove and install the roses, in line with the recommendation from the Nursery. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The Clerk is to look at any savings if the Groundsman removes the roses.

18/515 CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION TO RESET HEADSTONE WITHIN ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

Neville Memorials Masons have assessed the leaning headstones in the Churchyard, on the footpath to The Bury. They advise that the stone currently leaning backwards is unstable and needs resetting. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that the quote from Neville Memorials to reset the monolith headstone be approved at £197 plus VAT. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/516 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING WITHIN THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Channon confirmed the need to formulate a plan to address the burial requirements of the Village Community over the next 100 years. This will need to consider likely volumes and locations of any future burials. Councillor Davison-Williams highlighted that any developer involved in delivering new housing as part of the proposed Local Plan would need to consider services for the community, which would include burials. Councillor Channon agreed to start looking at building a model of the requirements for the Village.

18/517 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillors were asked to consider an urgent request from a resident in Bramingham, Luton, to bury his wife in Barton-le-Clay Burial Ground. She had been involved with Streatley Church but following her death, they have now been told that St Margaret's churchyard is closed. There is no meaningful connection with Barton-le-Clay. After discussion, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** to decline the request for burial in Barton-le-Clay, in line with current policy. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

A Request has been received to add two new inscriptions on an existing headstone. The family have asked for one of the inscriptions to be put on the base plinth. A review of the current Regulations does not cover this situation and so confirmation has been sought from the Burial Grounds Committee. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that the inscription be allowed, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm