

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.31 PM**

Present: Councillors Mr A Channon (Chair), Mr S Laycock (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mrs A Vale, Mr J Paxton (ex-officio)

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

21/185 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Thomas

21/186 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the procedures regarding declarations. None declared.

Councillor Paxton joined the meeting at 7.33 pm

21/187 MATTERS ARISING

St Nicholas Church confirmed that the storage container had been removed from the paddock and relocated to its new home.

A member of public raised concern regarding an overhanging tree branch in the Burial Ground. The Assistant Clerk would investigate.

The Groundsman successfully fixed a leaking water pipe in the Burial Ground. No further action was needed.

21/188 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st JUNE 2021

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 21st June 2021 **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

21/189 TO ACKNOWLEDE THE BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD INSPECTIONS

The inspections undertaken on 14th September were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

21/190 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WAR MEMORIAL INSPECTIONS

The inspection undertaken on 14th September was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

21/191 TO AGREE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE AND APPROVE ANY COSTS

Members considered the arrangements for the 2021 service at the War Memorial. The Lord Lieutenants office confirmed that Deputy Lieutenant Geoffrey Farr MBE would attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Lieutenancy.

A road closure request had been submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. Volunteers would be needed to man the closure points, the Assistant Clerk will action this.

The costs for the sound system had been requested but were not available at the time of the meeting. In previous years a young person has performed the Last Post which was considered a good edition to the service. The Assistant Clerk would look to source a musician, however if no one is available a recording would need to be considered. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that Amazon gift vouchers to the value of £50.00 should be purchased for the musician, should one be available. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Members overviewed the service sheet and following discussion Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that the poem 'The Crosses' by *Bill Mitton* should be used this year. Councillor Gardner **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The Deputy Lieutenant would be invited to read the poem.

The Assistant Clerk would arrange a suitable person to lead the war memorial service and work through the other actions.

St Nicholas Church had not yet agreed the arrangements for their church service, an update would be provided once the information is available.

21/192 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RESPONSE TO THE MEMORIAL STABILITY TESTING IN THE BURIAL GROUND AND TO AGREE THE NEXT STAGE

Members considered the next stage of the project. A number of families had come forward seeking information and one family had arranged for their memorial to be refixed. The notices regarding the stability will remain in place but the Council would need to take action to make safe any which have no ownership. Following discussion it was agreed that unstable headstones should be laid down rather than reset and quotes should be sought for consideration.

21/193 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Items to be included in the next agenda included an update on the burial ground strategy, tree works, memorial work quotations and any outstanding decisions needed for the Remembrance Sunday service.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm