

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM**

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

**Attending:** Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Councillor Mrs A Miller

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**21/070 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillor Paxton

**21/071 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**21/072 MATTERS ARISING**

The Peace Clock at St Nicholas Church stopped working some time ago and despite several investigations from two separate specialists neither has been able to resolve the problem. The Church instructed a new contractor to assess the clock and are waiting for their findings and quote for its repair. Once the clock has been successfully repaired the Church request that annual servicing, paid for by the Parish Council, is undertaken by the same company, Cumbria Clock Makers. A quote for the annual service will be passed to the Parish Council once available.

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace regarding HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022, an invitation has been received from the Pageantmaster to take part in a nationwide beacon lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 at 9.15pm. There are likely to be many events over the long bank holiday weekend with more details to be announced nearer the time. Members agreed to register the Parish Councils interest in taking part in the beacon lighting and to engage with the Christmas Lights committee and other organisations about the event. Assistant Clerk to action.

St Nicholas Church advised that work to clear the container and debris from the glebe land situated by the Burial Ground would be starting soon. Due to the size of the vehicle needed to move and transport the container, access to the burial ground and hills is likely to be affected for short periods of time. It was estimated that the work would take 2-3 days to complete, the exact commencement date was unknown and would depend on the contractors availability. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that no funerals have been booked in and she will liaise with the church warden should any funerals be requested.

**21/073 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**  
Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal with 4 in favour and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved.

**21/074 TO ACKNOWLEDGE A VERBAL COMPLAINT FROM A RESIDENT REGARDING OVERHANGING TREES IN THE BURIAL GROUND GARDEN OF REST**  
The office received a verbal complaint about overhanging tree branches in the garden of rest area which overshadow the area and become wet during the winter months. The trees were believed to be outside the burial ground itself but further investigation would be needed. Members acknowledged the complaint and agreed to arrange an onsite meeting to view the problem.

**21/075 TO REVIEW THE BURIAL GROUNDS MEMORIAL STABILITY TESTING REPORT AND AGREE THE ACTIONS REQUIRED**  
Members reviewed the report and photographs of the failed stones. A number of stones, mainly in the oldest area of the burial ground, have been cordoned and taped off for safety. Members agreed that notices should be placed on all headstones which had failed asking the family to contact the Parish Council to discuss what action is necessary. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she would look at the burial records and contact as many grave owners as possible. It was acknowledged that some graves will have no ownership due to their age and repair would very likely fall to the Parish Council to deal with. The timescale for the work was agreed as the Autumn, if no family come forward by the autumn the Parish Council will look to lay down or refix the memorials. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to action as agreed.**

Councillor Miller arrived at 8.40 pm

**21/076 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND STRATEGY AND AGREE THE NEXT STAGE**

Councillor Channon provided an update on the project and the likely build and maintenance costs of a new burial ground which would serve the village for the 100 year period. It was widely felt that the land adjacent to the Burial Ground could offer a solution. If it was used for cremated remains graves it would free up space in the existing site for full burials and give the Council time to save the money required for the new site. Councillor Channon advised that he would explore this further and report back at the next committee meeting.

**21/077 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.49 pm