

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM
ON MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.48 PM**

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

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/075 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were received from Councillor Paxton.

20/076 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

20/077 MATTERS ARISING

Minute point 19/093, works to repair the splits in the wooden surround of the burial ground sign have been completed. The surround has also been oiled to protect it from future splitting.

Minute point 19/550, following reports that the road sign for St Nicholas Church/Burial ground was pointing in the wrong direction, Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways Department have now rivetted it into place.

Minute point 19/619, the Council's offer for the purchase of glebe land next to the burial ground was forwarded to the land agent on 17th March. No response has been received as yet.

Minute point 19/618, the meeting with the architect regarding St Nicholas church soakaways project was postponed due to coronavirus. No new date has been set as yet.

Following numerous inspections of the Peace clock at St Nicholas Church, the contractor has been unable to identify and fix the problem. The church warden has had more success and undertaken the repair. The clock is now chiming correctly and appears to be in good working order.

The Church is experiencing problems with crows setting off the roof alarm. Last year metal guards were installed to the louvres in the tower to stop crows gaining access as they had built significant nests which blocked access to the tower and clock. The crows have returned again this year and as they cannot gain access to the tower they are perching on the roof and setting off the alarm. The alarm supplier had assured that wildlife including birds would not set off the alarm, this has not proved to be the case. The supplier is attending site on 24th June to resolve the problem.

Following the recent tree survey, two trees within the burial ground are recommended for further monitoring. The Clerk is making the necessary arrangements, update to be provided once further investigation has taken place.

20/078 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2020

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 24th February 2020. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

20/079 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD INSPECTIONS

The Burial Ground and Churchyard inspection undertaken on 17th June was acknowledged. The groundsman noted that in the churchyard garden of rest, 3 memorials have been marked up as they need repair. Councillor Thomas asked whether it had been possible to establish who is responsible for the upkeep of the churches garden of rest. Although the area is included in the plan of the closed churchyard, new graves have been dug. The Assistant Clerk had asked the diocese registrar for clarification on a number of occasions however it was still unclear. Councillor Davison-Williams has a copy of all correspondence between the office and Diocese and agreed he would draft a letter to the Diocese seeking clarification, letter to be agreed at the July Full Council meeting. Everything else was in order. **ACTION: Councillor Davison-Williams to draft letter for approval at July Full Council meeting.**

20/080 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WAR MEMORIAL INSPECTION

The War Memorial inspection undertaken on 17th June was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

20/081 TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE ADDITIONAL COST INCURRED FOR HEADSTONE REPAIRS IN ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

The contractor began work to repair/lay down the unstable memorials within the churchyard on Monday 15th June. On closer inspection one of the cross memorials was found to have no foundation stone and could not be anchored safely. Cost to supply new concrete base and for the additional time spent securing the memorial was £50.00 + VAT. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of the additional cost of £50.00 + VAT, payable to Offley Memorials, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Total cost for essential repair works to 11 memorials in St Nicholas Churchyard was £2,300.00 + VAT.

20/082 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR NON-RESIDENT TO BE BURIED IN THE BURIAL GROUNDS GARDEN OF REST

The request for a new ashes burial in the Garden of Rest was considered. Members felt that they needed further information regarding the length of time the family lived in Barton before a final decision could be made. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to request further information, item to be included on the July Full Council agenda.**

20/083 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE BURIAL GROUND REGULATIONS AND AGREE EFFECTIVE FROM DATE

The review of the burial ground regulations was undertaken and members considered the recommendations made by the Assistant Clerk. A number of additions were suggested, some items were rewritten to reflect current procedures. Councillor Davison-Williams had noted a small number of amendments and agreed that he would pass these to the Assistant Clerk ready for approval at Full Council. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to update regulations as discussed for approval at the July Full Council meeting.** Regulations to come into force following their approval on 13th July.

20/084 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Following the Parish Council's financial offer for the diocese glebe land in Church Road no response has yet been received. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to chase the land agent for a response.** In order to move forward with the plan for a burial ground extension, Councillors Davison-Williams and Channon agreed to compare their calculations to agree the current available capacity for burials within the current burial ground. Item to be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm