

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE  
ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 9.06 PM**

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

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

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**20/725 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – none, all present

**20/726 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

**20/727 MATTERS ARISING**

The office received a report that a car accident occurred by the War Memorial on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The vehicle left the road hitting a fire hydrant sign post, the base of a tree and then drove through the holly hedge before re-joining the road. The vehicle was abandoned in a layby and removed sometime the following day. It was unclear whether the Police were informed at the time, the Clerk reported the incident to the relevant authorities and the Groundsman has tidied the holly bush.

St Nicholas Church Warden advised that the Faculty for replacement of the church soak aways has been granted by St Albans Diocese. A meeting with the Contractor, Church and the Assistant Clerk will be arranged before work begins.

The office received a complaint of vandalism to a memorial plaque in the Garden of Rest on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The damage was discovered by the family on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and has caused much distress. Following a check of the Burial Ground and Garden of Rest it appeared to be an isolated case, there was no evidence of damage to other memorials. The family were urged to report the incident to the Police and to advise the office if anything further occurred. The office would also report the incident to the relevant authorities separately.

**20/728 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2021**

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 be approved. Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

**20/729 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INSPECTIONS OF THE BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD**

The inspections, undertaken by the Groundsman on 12<sup>th</sup> April were acknowledged. Everything was in order with the exception of the marked-up headstones in the churchyard garden of rest. One family have come forward regarding a marked-up stone and advised that they will make arrangements for it to be repaired.

**20/730 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INSPECTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL**

The inspection undertaken by the Groundsman on 12<sup>th</sup> April was acknowledged. Everything was in order at that time. The car accident, reported under matters arising took place after the inspection.

**20/731 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR MEMORIAL STABILITY TESTING IN THE BURIAL GROUND**

Two quotations were considered. Following discussion Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the quotation of £1,000 from Cemetery Development Services to carry out memorial stability testing and produce a report of their findings should be accepted. Councillor Thomas **SECONDED** the proposal which was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Costs to be taken from the maintenance budget.

**20/732 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE BURIAL GROUND FEES FOR 2021/2022**

The expenditure, income and current fees to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were reviewed. Following discussion Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the fees for 2021/2022 as discussed. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. A copy of the fees for 2021/2022 is attached with the minutes.

**20/733 UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND STRATEGY AND AGREE THE NEXT STAGE**

Councillor Channon provided an update on the project and confirmed that he would provide more detailed modelling costs ready for the next committee meeting. Members discussed the land adjacent to the Burial Ground which has been identified as unsuitable for full burials but cremation plots could be possible. This would be explored further.

**20/734 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm