

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.36 PM**

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

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

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/393 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Davison-Williams

20/394 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

20/395 MATTERS ARISING

Agenda item 20/310. The Groundsman began work raking the shingle pathways in the Burial Ground to distribute the stones as evenly as possible. A formal complaint has not been received.

One quotation for the tree survey for St Nicholas Churchyard and Garden has been received, a second quotation is being sought. The survey is due to take place in March 2021.

The additional 7 standard roses were planted in the Garden of Rest on 25th November.

A request was received for a headstone to be left in situ and not removed prior to burial taking place. The Regulations state that all memorials should be removed before interment takes place however the family questioned this ruling as the ashes were to be placed within a full burial grave and only a small area of the grave, away from the headstone would be disturbed. Members considered the request and agreed that in the case of ashes within a full burial space it is not always necessary for the headstone to be removed providing the interment is not near the headstone itself. Councillor Channon therefore **PROPOSED** a waiver of the ruling should be applied to allow the headstone to be left in situ in the case of ashes buried within a full burial plot. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The Regulations would be reviewed at a later date.

20/396 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26th OCTOBER 2020

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 26th October 2020. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

20/397 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD INSPECTIONS

The Burial Ground and Churchyard inspections undertaken on 11th and 23rd November were acknowledged. Everything was in order with the exception of the marked-up headstones in St Nicholas Church Garden of Rest which the Church Warden is looking into.

20/398 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MONTHLY INSPECTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial inspections undertaken on 11th and 24th November were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

20/399 UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND STRATEGY AND AGREE THE NEXT STAGE

An update on potential sites within the village, their ownership and suitability was provided to members. The Chairman had investigated a number of burial statistics and case studies where new cemetery facilities have been provided and suggested that sites approximately 5 hectares in size would be suitable and meet the needs of the village for the next 100 years. All agreed that more information on the death rate and burial trends i.e. full burial versus cremation should be sought to enable the committee to scale down the number of potential sites. Also of interest was the potential funding which could be available from Developers, should the two sites which have been included in Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan be successful. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to look into.**

20/400 TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF SILENT SOLDIER STATUE AND TO CONSIDER THE WAR MEMORIAL AREA

This item was deferred due to time constraints.

20/401 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2020/21 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2021/22

The expenditure to date and draft budget for 2021/22 was discussed by members. During the current year additional hedge cutting, planting of the standard rose bushes and repairs to the Burial Ground sign had been completed and in the churchyard tree and memorial works undertaken. For 2021/22 a 2% increase in grass cutting/landscaping and a 3.5% increase in refuse collection had been quoted. Memorial stability testing in the Burial Ground and the tree survey of St Nicholas Churchyard and subsequent works were factored in the draft budget. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2021/22 Burial Grounds budget, with a £1,100.00 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/312 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

An up to date quotation for the shrub clearance work in the field next to the burial ground should be sought.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm