

MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 21st JANUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 8.54 pm

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

In attendance: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs S Cowie

18/444 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr D Gunter and Mr L Davison-Williams

18/445 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were none

18/446 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Channon confirmed that he had completed two inspections of the burial ground and churchyard.

18/447 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2018

A copy of the minutes was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 3rd December 2018, this was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/448 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE ADDITIONAL EAR MARKED RESERVE ALLOCATION

Members discussed the need for additional land for future burial use. It is likely to cost many thousands of pounds to purchase land and the specialist fees required so it is important that the Council plans and budgets accordingly. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that £3,000 additional funding from the general reserves be requested; £2,000 for the churchyard and £1,000 for additional hedge cutting within the burial ground. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/449 REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND FEES FOR 2019 / 2020

Members felt they needed more time to consider this item and asked that it be deferred to the committee meeting in February.

18/450 TO CONSIDER PARISHIONERS REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL BENCH WITHIN THE BURIAL GROUND

Councillor Gardner declared an interest as she knows one of the parishioners who has requested a memorial bench. Two parishioners have requested a memorial bench within the burial ground. All available spaces for memorial benches and trees are full however following the removal of one bench recently one space for a bench is now available. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that permission be granted to install a new memorial bench, the first parishioner who added their name to the list should be offered the space first and if not wanted it should be offered to the second person. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton with **3 members in favour and 1 abstention**.

- 18/451 TO CONSIDER BURIAL POLICY AND RATES FOR SHARPENHOE RESIDENTS**
Councillor Channon asked that this item be deferred until the next committee meeting when burial rates will also be agreed.
- 18/452 UPDATE ON ROAD CLOSURE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Central Bedfordshire Council have advised that a road closure should be possible for the morning Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial, Hexton Road. The Assistant Clerk is liaising with the Police and will provide an update at the next meeting. In addition to the road closure the Parish Council is looking into the possibility of providing a sound system for the morning service, this should help should a closure not be possible.
- 18/453 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FOR REMOVAL AND REPLANTING OF ROSES WITHIN THE BURIAL GROUND GARDEN OF REST**
Some years ago Harkness Roses provided suggestions of rose varieties suitable for the Garden of Rest. Details of the suggested varieties were considered by members and following discussion members asked that the landscape contractor and rose specialist be asked to provide up-to-date suggestions and prices for suitable replacements. Item to be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- 18/454 TO RECONSIDER REQUEST FROM PARISHIONER FOR WILD AREAS WITHIN THE CHURCHYARD**
At the meeting in December the committee considered a request from a parishioner to arrange twig pile habitats within the hedgerow at the Churchyard. At that time members asked that an onsite meeting be arranged to establish the size and locations of the proposed bug habitats. Councillors Thomas, Gardner and the Assistant Clerk met with the parishioner and a number of possible areas of hedgerow were identified as being suitable. Members recommended that any twig piles should be placed far enough into the hedgerow so they do not affect the grass cutting. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** that the committee support the insect habitat made from small twigs and logs within the boundary of the churchyard hedgerow, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 18/455 UPDATE ON LEANING HEADSTONES WITHIN THE CHURCHYARD**
The Assistant Clerk advised that one headstone within the churchyard is leaning towards the pathway to the Bury. The Church Warden believes that it may have moved over the summer months. The office is liaising with the church warden and a call for relatives will be arranged.
- 18/456 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OF FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA - None**

Meeting ended 9.54 pm