

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 18th MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 8.52 pm**

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

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

18/606 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr D Gunter and Mrs G Gardner

18/607 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

18/608 MATTERS ARISING

The Assistant Clerk recently met with surrounding parishes to discuss cemetery management. Of the Parishes in attendance many have new burial grounds and are working to implement their systems, fees, forms etc. It was agreed that the Parishes would share as much information as possible, including useful contacts. It is hoped that a training session can be arranged locally, the office and Clerk of Shefford Town Council are looking into the possibility of hosting a relevant training course.

The Assistant Clerk advised members that the headstone from a funeral held the previous week had been left onsite and not removed by the stone mason. After consultation with the family the stone mason has confirmed they will be removing the headstone and storing until such appropriate time that it can be reset.

Cottage Farm Nurseries are collating an up-to-date list of available standard roses. Councillor Thomas and the Assistant Clerk will review and arrange the planting as soon as possible.

St Albans Diocese now have all paperwork required for the Faculty application to re-set one leaning headstone in St Nicholas Churchyard. Once the Faculty is received the contractor will be instructed to carry out the work.

18/609 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY 2019

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Burial Grounds meeting held on 18th February, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/610 TO CONSIDER BURIAL GROUND STRATEGY

Councillor Channon updated members of the work he had done to establish the remaining capacity available for burial plots within the current site. Councillor Davison-Williams undertook a similar exercise in 2009 and it was agreed that Councillors Channon and Davison-Williams would work on this together to establish how many burial plots are available and the timescale when a new burial space will be required. Moving forward the plan A is to acquire the glebe land next to the current site with Plan B being a second phase burial ground elsewhere within the village.

18/611 TO CONSIDER REQUEST REGARDING HEADSTONE AND GRAVE SPACE

A request has been received from a family wishing to include a picture of a 'brand' aeroplane on their loved ones headstone. Members felt it was not appropriate for the picture, as supplied, to be included as it would set a precedent for other similar requests. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** the request for the photo, as supplied, should be declined, this was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

A further request to install stone chippings to the grave space was considered. Members acknowledged there are a number of similar graves within the burial ground and were broadly supportive of the request. Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the request to install chippings, as per the photo supplied, to the grave space however the boundary of the grave should be marked out by the Parish Council prior to the installation. In addition any chippings should be below grass level to enable the grass cutting contractor to carry out their work. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/612 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ASHES INTERMENT AND PLANTING OF BULBS WITHIN GRAVE SPACE

A family member has requested permission to inter half his sisters ashes within their mothers grave space. He also asked for permission to plant spring bulbs within the grave space. Members considered both requests and following discussion Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** approval of the interment of half the ashes, subject to correct grave ownership being established. He further **PROPOSED** approval of the request to plant spring bulbs within the grave space. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/613 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR RE-LETTERING OF THE NAMES OF THE FALLEN ON THE WAR MEMORIAL

Two quotations were considered by members. One contractor had not been able to view the war memorial and could therefore not give a firm price for repairing the crack. Members agreed the contractor should be asked to visit the site and provide a quotation for all works including re-pointing of the crack. Item to be discussed further once the revised quotation is available.

18/517 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm