

Goudhurst Parish Council



BURIAL BOARD

Minutes of a virtual Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 21 July 2020

Present: Cllrs Mrs Caroline Richards (Chairman), Phil Kirkby and Guy Sutton..
Also Mr David Nichol (Adviser and Representative of the Friends of St Mary's).

Apologies: Cllr Barry Noakes (technical difficulty joining the meeting)

Declarations of Interest. There were none.

Rules and Regulations and Fees

Rules and Regulations. At the Clerk's request, it was **agreed** to recommend to Council that the words 'Memorials should not be removed from the Burial Grounds without consultation with the Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council.'

This is because on two occasions in the past year family members have complained that memorials have been removed without their knowledge only to discover subsequently that another member of the family had removed the memorial. It was **noted** that this is not something the Burial Board can enforce but the suggested text added to the Regulations may assist.

Fees. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that there should be no increase in fees in 2020/21. Members were of the opinion that with the pandemic is making life difficult enough for bereaved families. In addition there had been a significant increase in fees for 2019/2020.

Finance

2020/21 Receipts. It was **noted** that for the 1st quarter of 2020, the Burial Board had taken in only £1,540.00 being only 14% of the revenue target for the year. The Clerk's view was that with the restrictions on public gatherings, funerals and interments had been postponed. It is likely there will be a 'catch up' later in the financial year.

Clerk's report

For the information of Councillors, the Clerk mentioned the prolonged negotiations since 2013 with a family from Tenterden over the legality of the interment of the ashes of a family member while it is not clear legally who now is the holder of the Exclusive Rights of Burial. The family dispute over this continues and the Clerk has advised the family to take legal advice.

The late Peter Albert White. It was noted for Councillors information that the ashes of the late Mr White are currently being stored at The Hop Bine. Mr White had been in the care of Kent Social Services and at the time of his death he had no close relatives or funds. Council has agreed to waive the fees relating to the interment of Mr Whites ashes my Minute 410/19 of 09 March 2020.

St Mary's Grounds Maintenance.

Laurel Hedge on the north side on the Burial Grounds. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that a quote of £540.00 annum for 3 cuts of this hedge with the removal of arisings be agreed.

Clean Up Day.

Clean Up Day at St Mary's. It was reconfirmed that the rearranged date for this is Saturday 17 October 2020.

Next Meeting.

20 October 2020 either by Zoom at 7.30 pm or at St Mary's Church starting at 6.00 pm with a walk round of the Churchyard and Burial Grounds.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Anthony Farnfield, Clerk