

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## BURIAL AUTHORITY

Minutes of a Meeting held on 21 March 2023 at 7.20pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs Antony Harris, Phil Kirkby, David Knight, Geoff Mason and Caroline Richards (Chairman) and Guy Sutton.

Officers Present: Mrs Claire Reed, Clerk.

1. Apologies: there were none.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2023.
4. Questions from the public and press: there were none.
5. Hedge on the eastern boundary of the Burial Ground.  
It was **noted** that two quotations have been received for the reduction of the holly hedge on the eastern boundary. The hedge has grown considerably in width and is now encroaching on nearby graves. The committee agreed that a decision on cutting back the hedge should be postponed pending the drafting of the new green spaces management plan. It was further agreed that an additional quote for the works should be sought. **Action: Cllr Geoff Mason and Clerks.**
6. Request to plant snowdrops in the Burial Grounds.  
It was noted that a request had been received from a resident to plant snowdrops in the Burial Grounds. The Authority welcomed the request but agreed that the project should be considered as part of the new green spaces management plan. It was further agreed that the resident should be invited to join the green spaces working group. **Action: Clerk to make contact.**
7. Trees in the Victorian Cemetery.  
It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £800 to remove a cypress growing out of a grave in the Victorian cemetery and to raise the crown on an adjacent cypress to approx. 3m to improve visibility across the valley. **Action: Clerk**
8. Green Spaces Management.  
It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £100 for a virtual meeting with 'Caring for God's Acre', a conservation charity for burial grounds. Cllrs Geoff Mason and Caroline Richards will join the meeting to discuss ideas for a management plan to help preserve heritage and support wildlife in the cemeteries. It was agreed that a working group will be established to draft a management plan. **Action: Cllr Geoff Mason**
9. Next meeting of the Burial Authority to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Claire Reed, Clerk