

Goudhurst Parish Council



BURIAL AUTHORITY

Minutes of a Meeting held on 04 July at 7.00pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Prior to the start of the meeting, members carried out a visual inspection of the Burial Ground and cemeteries.

174/23 It was **noted** that growth the bank on the south side of St Mary's, which is being left uncut, is encroaching on the disabled parking spaces. The Clerk was asked to request the contractor cut a metre strip around the area to resole the problem.

175/23 It was **noted** that, despite changes to the regulations, there are still a lot of plastic flowers and cellophane wrap in the Burial Ground. The Clerk was asked to place a notice on the gate to the Burial Ground to advise visitors of the changes to the regulations. **Action: Clerk.**

The meeting was convened.

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors Present: Cllrs Antony Harris, Edward Hodgskin, Phil Kirkby, Geoff Mason and Caroline Richards.

Officers Present: Mrs Claire Reed, Clerk.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

176/23 It was **resolved** unanimously to elect Cllr Caroline Richards as chairman of the committee.

APOLOGIES

177/23 There were none.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

178/23 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

179/23 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on 21 March 2023, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

180/23 There were none.

MEMORIAL APPLICATIONS

181/23 The committee considered the application for a memorial as presented at the meeting. It was **noted** that the Burial Authority regulations do not permit memorials for those not interred in Goudhurst. Therefore, the memorial application was refused. However, the Burial Authority **resolved** to accept an amended version of the wording as proposed at the meeting. **Action: Clerk to contact the family/ memorial mason with proposed changes.**

182/23 It was **resolved** to delegate authority to the Clerk to approve memorial applications in consultation with the Chair. It was **agreed** that only applications within the regulations would be approved by the Clerk, all other applications will be considered by the Burial Authority.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

183/23 The application to introduce a new memorial bench in the Burial Ground was considered. It was **resolved** that council will purchase and install a new memorial bench, to replace the dilapidated bench in the south west corner, and that families will be able to purchase memorial plaques to be added to the bench. **Action: Clerk**

MAINTENANCE OF THE BURIAL GROUND

184/23 It was **agreed** that the Clerk should seek quotes to heavily cut back the hedges on both the east and west boundaries of the burial Ground which are encroaching on grave spaces/ memorials. It was further agreed that additional quotes should be sought to cut the growth on the top and back of the hedge on the west boundary. **Action: Clerk**

185/23 It was **noted** that a new working party had been established to weed the Burial Ground and Victorian Cemetery. Volunteers will meet fortnightly on a Wednesday at 2pm, starting on 19 July. The project is being called 'Weedy Wednesday'. Participants will be encouraged to bring a flask of drink and to make a social event of it. **Action: Clerk to advertise in the e-newsletter/ social media and to make a sign for the Burial Ground noticeboard.**

186/23 It was **noted** that members of the Green Spaces Working Group had attended a zoom meeting with the charity Caring for God's Acre to discuss ideas for eco-friendlier management of the Victorian Cemetery. Cllrs Geoff Mason and Caroline Richards will meet to discuss/ draft a management plan for consideration by council. **Action: Cllrs Geoff Mason and Caroline Richards.**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

187/23 It was noted that the Clerk had not yet received confirmation

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next Burial Authority Meeting, Tuesday 19 September 2023, 6.00 pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm

Claire Reed
Clerk