



Minutes of a meeting of the **Calstock Parish Council, BURIAL COMMITTEE**  
held on **Tuesday 29 March 2022, in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.**

Those present were; -

**COUNCILLORS:** Cllr Alford, Cllr Beech, Cllr Greenwood (Chairman), Cllr Polglase, Cllr Wakem, Cllr Wells and Miss Clare Bullimore (Deputy Clerk – *minutes*).

**1. APOLOGIES**

Miss Sue Lemon (Clerk).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public were present to talk about the Albaston Cemetery and how untidy it looks with weeds and brambles. It was agreed that feedback from last year showed that there is a preference for these areas to be tidy. Tavistock Taskforce will be asked to clear it initially. It was pointed out that the two workmen are both part time and have the whole of the parish to cover with the local authority asking more of local councils. There was also talk of the state of the some of the old graves and whose responsibility it is to restore them, so they are not a hazard. It is likely that the Parish Council would need to pay for such repair as they would become a health and safety issue, but the Deputy Clerk will confirm this.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 16-11-2022**

**Proposal/Resolution:** the minutes be approved. Proposed: Cllr Beech, seconded: Cllr Wells – agreed by all those present at the last meeting.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

Memorial Garden – Kev has completed some groundwork on this, Christie has some volunteers ready to help and the area is ready for Christie to start work.

Artwork – Colin Pethick has painted an artist's impression of the cemetery through the seasons; the Parish Council own the copyright for this, and the painting has been digitalised and postcards have been made to send out with all cemetery correspondence. The image will be used on an information board and Colin indicated he would be happy to help with this.



Landmark Tree, Calstock – a landmark tree was donated from the Forest for Calstock Parish project and will be planted next to the gate as you enter the new area on the left – this agreed with Chris Smart.

#### **6. REVIEW OF REGULATIONS, HEADSTONE MATERIALS AND INTERMENT FEES**

The regulations were approved subject to Burial Committee being used throughout rather than Burial Board – proposed: Cllr Polglase; seconded: Cllr Wells – unanimous.

Headstone materials – a request had been made about using non-standard materials – it was agreed that in such cases a design with measurements and material should be submitted to the Burial Committee for consideration on an individual basis.

Interment fee – following research into other charges in other localities and feedback from funeral directors and evidence that over £7000 of revenue was lost by waiving the fees since 2018, it was approved to reinstate an interment fee of £150 for each interment – proposed: Cllr Wells, seconded Cllr Wakem – unanimous.

#### **7. BURIAL NUMBERS, 2021, PROJECTION FOR MOVING INTO NEW CEMETERY, CALSTOCK**

With approximately 60 plots left and an average of less than 12 burials a year in Calstock (some of which use pre-purchased graves) it was agreed that the fence need not come down yet nor the vehicular access made better as the area is not likely to be used for 6 years. Clare will talk to Chris Smart and the Workmen about a natural hedge of some sort to screen the area that will be used for burials from the area that the workmen will continue to use as this will take time to establish.

#### **8. PLASTIC ITEMS IN THE CEMETERY**

The Deputy Clerk has spoken to several people who felt that removal of plastic items will always be very contentious. However, Cllr Wakem felt that we should continue with our pledge so as not to undermine other decisions that the council take. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Wakem will do an audit of the graves and make a note of families who need to be contacted; the school initiatives (see next item) will get underway; Tavistock Taskforce will tidy the old section and there will be an open invite for people to meet the councillors in the cemetery to remove the items once all the previous steps have been put in place.



**9. SCHOOL INITIATIVES INCLUDE HOLDING A FUND FOR PEOPLE TO APPLY FOR BULBS ETC.**

The Deputy Clerk has met the headteacher of Delaware who offered that school children will do litter picks in the cemetery and survey the items that are picked up and also that children would be keen to plants bulbs and small plants on the graves of people whose relatives cannot access the cemetery regularly for whatever reason.

The Deputy Clerk asked if a fund could be held for people on low incomes to apply to get some bulbs – it was resolved to recommend to F&GP that a fund of £500 is held and people should show evidence of receiving Universal Credit or Pension Credit should they ask for help towards this and they will receive up to £10 of bulbs/plants.

**10. REVIEW BUDGETS AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Clerk will investigate the cost of restoring the graves for this to be considered under the Capital Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 2015.

Signed: ..... Date: .....