

Goudhurst Parish Council



BURIAL BOARD

Minutes of a virtual Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 20 October 2020 at 5.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Mrs Caroline Richards (Chairman), Barry Noakes and Guy Sutton.
Also Mr David Nichol (Adviser and Representative of the Friends of St Mary's).
Anthony Farnfield as Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Phil Kirkby

Declarations of Interest. There were none.

The Chairman of the Burial Board reported on current projects.

Christ Church Churchyard. Cllr Mrs Richards had visited Kilndown Churchyard recently and found that it is in good order. There are no matters needing attention.

St Mary's tidy up day. This had been held on 17 October and from participants comments it was a great success. 16 volunteers had attended led by Ed Bates and again Will Thompson's huge trailer was filled with arisings. **Action:** Deputy Clerk to thank Will Thompson and the volunteers who had generously given their time.

Churchyard wall damage to the wall on the north side of the Victorian Cemetery by the small old wooden foot gate. It was **noted** that had been damaged by an unknown vehicle recently. The deputy clerk reported that a member of the St Mary's congregation who is involved in the current Quinquennial repairs to St Mary's Church tower has offered to ask that Contractor to give us a quote for repairs to the Victorian Cemetery wall.

Evergreen Tree in the Victorian Cemetery. There is an undistinguished mature evergreen (a Cypress?) growing out of a grave near the small old wooden foot gate. This is crowding a yew and a tall Scots Pine. It was agreed to recommend to Council that it be removed and that the Clerks should obtain a quote from The Living Forest and liaise with the Church Warden. It was **noted** that in removing this one tree, we are going to plant a number of Jacquemontii birch trees on the Top Glebe (Village Green).

Yew trees. It was **noted** that the restoration pruning of the mature Yews in the Victorian Cemetery looks good. Further pruning will be carried out in May 2021 to 3 or 4 additional mature yews.

Replacement flowering cherry trees on the south bank of St Mary's Churchyard. It was **noted** that two trees have been ordered from Golden Hills Nurseries. Members expressed concern that these trees are to be planted in the same place that two diseased cherry trees were removed earlier in 2020. The Clerks will double check on this with Golden Hills. **Action: The Clerks.**

St Marys Churchyard Wall at the west end. Members expressed considerable concern about the ongoing damage to the wall by transiting HGVs and that that there appears to be no action being taken to resolve the issue. It was felt that the Parish Council should be doing something. The deputy Clerk

explained that it is a matter for the Diocese of Canterbury, St Mary's PCC and the Church insurance company. However, the deputy Clerk will relay the Burial Board's concern to the Church Warden.

Finance

2020/21 Receipts and payments April to October. It was **noted** that on the annual expenditure budget of £20,000, the Burial Board has spent £17,300. Expenditure will reduce during the winter months as grounds maintenance activity, particularly mowing, will be reduced. On the receipts target of £11,000, we have received £4,300.

Budget for 2021/2022. It was agreed to recommend to Council that the Burial Board Budget for 2021/2022 should be the same as that for 2020/2021.

Next Meeting.

16 March 2021 either by Zoom at 5.00 pm or at St Mary's Church starting at 5.00 pm with a walk round of the Churchyard and Burial Grounds.

The meeting closed at 5.40pm

Anthony Farnfield, Deputy Clerk