



**Cllr J Bryan**

**Burials Summary – Annual Parish Meeting, 18th May 2023**

22-23 has been a year of transition for the Parish council with new faces and responsibilities. In particular for the more sensitive nature of ongoings with Burials in the Parish as well as the upkeep of the Cemetery and Graveyard, we have experienced a year of maintenance. Fundamentally there are considerable points to address moving into 23-24 and beyond which have already been referenced in the previous year's report and now face the need for more decisive action.

For the cemetery, condition of gates/entrances to the upper and lower sections should be reviewed along with the adequate display and enforcement of burial and memorial policies. Waste management (bin condition, quantity and placement) as well as potential maintenance and cost allocation/recovery for memorial stones is to be considered. A summary will follow in June of the recent push test/memorial inspection. A review of available plots and space suitable for burial in the cemetery should also be undertaken immediately to accurately ascertain remaining available plots and maximise capacity, ensuring that memorial maps are updated and made available via relevant means.

As detailed in the finance report, for the graveyard (in coordination with the Church), a plan for professional inspection, securing of funding to maintain/repair memorials as well as planning for the second half of the graveyard wall to be rebuilt should be key in the coming year(s).

These sit alongside the imminent need for new burial grounds acquisition. This is a plight shared by neighbouring parishes and town councils where land value is at a premium while under continued consideration for development. Finances and our Environmental & sustainability commitments should be closely considered and prepared accordingly for this investment, which the Parish Council shall undoubtedly continue to consider in due course.

Memorial, Inspection and Burial policies along with Fees currently remain unchanged pending council approval in June. Income for 22-23 was comprised of fees for 3 burials and 3 Memorial stones totalling £1,145.

Parish Council have handled sensitive instances of memorial damage and policy exemption which will inform future dealings, our hope is that the families involved feel Council acted fairly and were supportive of those involved.

My hope is that the Parish can take continued pride in the condition and upkeep of these Blockley sites and I welcome any contact or recommendations for further improvements we might consider.

**Summary of income, Blockley Parish Burials**

**Blockley Parish Council  
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Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net
30/05/2022		Unity Current Account		Burial plot & burial	Julie Sullivan	Z	410.00
01/12/2022		Unity Current Account		Burial Fees	Allen & Sons Ltd	E	215.00
29/03/2023		Unity Current Account		Burial Fees	E Hill & son	Z	205.00
11/03/2023		Unity Current Account	Balhatchet	Memorial stone	Banbury Memorials	Z	30.00
25/03/2023		Unity Current Account	Larner	Memorial stone	Elizabeth Drinkwater	Z	75.00
13/12/2022		Unity Current Account	Harvey	Memorial stone	Simply Stone	Z	210.00
<b>Total</b>							<b>1,145.00</b>

Cllr Jon Bryan,

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