MINUTES OF THE RANSKILL AND TORWORTH JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE RANSKILL BOWLS CLUB RANSKILL ON MONDAY 13th APRIL 2026 AT 7PM

Present: Cllrs D. Simpson, P. Brown, M. Pryce, J. Helliwell, R. Willis

Clerk: B. Kinsey

Members of the Public: None

Open Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

01/0426 **Apologies for absence**

None

02/0426 **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th of January 2026**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

03/0426 **Financial Matters**

a. To approve the bank reconciliation and accounts as at 31st March 2026.
The financial year end accounts and bank reconciliation were provided for scrutiny. The balances in the bank accounts as of 31st March were current account £1,044.75, reserve account £5,710.04. The accounts were approved. **Carried**.

b. Review of the year end accounts and comparison to budget
For the full financial year to 31 March 2026 there was a higher level of activity with eight burials and cremations. Expenditure was normal, with one exceptional cost of £785.60 for the a memorial safety inspection. For the period as a whole there was a small surplus. A VAT reclaim has been made for £423.92.

04/0426 **Environment Issues**

The Clerk has received a complaint from a neighbouring house of encroaching tree growth. A tree condition and risk inspection was commissioned and carried out by an arboricultural consultant. It was noted that we previously used Via EM but they have ceased third party inspections, we had to find an independent specialist. The report indicated that two wild cherry trees were on the border with the neighbour, early mature and in good condition. No works are required on any tree in the cemetery. The neighbour is entitled to trim back branches to the fence. No further action is required by the committee.

05/0426 **Memorials**

a. Update on the memorial safety report
The inspection was carried out during October 2025. There were 187 memorials tested, of which 25 are risk category 1, in need of immediate repair, 28 in risk category 2, the remainder are considered safe. The Clerk displayed notices on the cemetery gates and the noticeboard asking families where a yellow risk 1 warning sticker is attached to their memorial to contact the Board. To date seven families have been in touch and 6 memorials have been repaired. It was decided to defer any further action to the next meeting.

06/0426 **Consecration of the Cemetery**

We have repeatedly asked the Diocese if the whole cemetery could be consecrated in one ceremony. We further enquired the type of mapping requested. To date we have not received a response.

07/0426 **Information forwarded to the next meeting**
None.

08/0426 **To agree the date of the next meeting**
Monday 7th September 2026.

Signed as a true record:

Chair