

Great Hale and Little Hale Joint Burial Board

Benjamin Ward Trust

Also known as Hale Magna and Hale Parva Joint Burial Committee.

Registered Charity Number 501760

Registered address: 9 Forum Way, Sleaford NG34 7FF

Trustees:

Mr Alan Broom - Chairman

Mr Michael Priestley

Mr Harry Needham

Mr Robert Needham (Resigned 25th April 2025)

Mr John Cope (Resigned 12th September 2025)

Mr Paul Rooke (Resigned 7th November 2025)

Mr Adam Cope (Appointed 10th November 2025)

Mr Ian Bennett (Appointed 10th November 2025)

Mr Steven Jenkins (Appointed 13th January 2026)

Mr Maurice Barnatt

Peter Nickols

Clerk: Mrs Debbie Scott

Auditor: Mrs Alison Bourne, Helpringham

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Sleaford

Insurance arranged through Zurich.

The Burial Board was created by the Parish Councils of Great Hale and Little Hale in the 1890s; it reports back to the Parishes annually but Trustees have not for some years been required to be appointed by the Parish Councils. Because of this disassociation, the Burial Board is not eligible to re-claim VAT under the Parish Councils' arrangements with HMRC, nor is it subject to the Smaller Bodies Annual External Audit regime. The Board continues to report annually to the Charity Commission.

The Burial Board's stated activities are to provide the area and maintain the same for the burials of present & past inhabitants of the two parishes. The cemetery also provides a place for people to visit the graves of loved ones.

During 2025-26 the Trustees continued to undertake work parties for seasonal maintenance as required. The costs of the grass-cutting contract negotiated with Sleaford Town Council for the 2025 season were paid by the Parish Councils, with a contribution to each by the Burial Board.

The Board met three times formally, in April 2025, November 2025 and January 2026, using Little Hale Chapel.

Burials were carried out and paid for during the year by local Funeral Director JE Severs (2) and by a private family (1), the latter under the supervision of the Chair of the Board. Memorial applications by Wm Kent (2) were also managed and one new plot was reserved privately.

The second interest payment on the 5-year fixed-term bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank, was received in January 2026.

During 2024-25, the Board had agreed to investigate setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to regularise its constitution. However, having taken advice, it became clear that formalising as a Joint Burial Committee would be the more appropriate solution. Much of the work during 2025-26 has therefore been towards re-constituting the Board as a new Joint Burial Committee of the two Parish Councils. With support from LALC and solicitors Wilkins, Chapman

and Rollitt, this was achieved in March 2026 when both Parish Councils agreed the new Terms of Reference to take effect from 1st April 2026. The Board is also grateful to Chattertons of Sleaford for sharing the original deeds of the two sections of the Cemetery, from 1898 and 1993, respectively. The land has now been valued by Will Barker & Co and work on registering the land with the Land Registry has commenced through Chattertons of Stamford.

When the new Joint Burial Committee takes effect, all operational funds will be transferred to a new Cemetery account managed by Little Hale Parish Council which has been agreed as the lead authority for the Joint Burial Committee going forward. The Charity, with three Trustees, will retain its 'long-term funds' (the Benjamin Ward legacy - £4,305.77) currently held in a five year fixed term bond, making annual donations to the Cemetery equivalent to the interest on the legacy. At the end of the fixed term bond the Trustees will consider further investment options. The Trustees will continue to report annually to the Charity Commission.

A portion of the Cemetery's short-term funds (£10,000) will also continue to be held in the 5 year fixed term bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank. The Charity will facilitate the transfer, each year, of the interest that relates to this portion into the Cemetery account managed by Little Hale Parish Council, until after the bond term ends in Spring 2029, when the original sum will be transferred to the Cemetery account.

Approved by the Trustees of the Great Hale and Little Hale Joint Burial Board Benjamin Ward Trust on 20th April 2026

Hale Magna and Hale Parva Joint Burial Board
Summary of Accounts 2025-26

Opening balances	2024-25	2025-26
Short Term Funds		
Cambridge and Counties Bank	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Lloyds	£5,498.51	£6,649.07
National Savings	£8,445.72	£8,445.72
	<u>£23,944.23</u>	<u>£25,094.79</u>
Income		
Plot Purchase	£120.00	£150.00
Interment Fees	£240.00	£560.00
Interest	£989.74	£957.14
Memorials	£645.00	£285.00
Contributions from Parish Councils	£500.00	£0.00
	<u>£2,494.74</u>	<u>£1,952.14</u>
	£2,494.74	£1,952.14
	<u>£26,438.97</u>	<u>£27,046.93</u>
Expenditure		
Staff costs	£500.00	£576.10
Grass cutting	£283.10	£400.00
Other Burial Expenses, Insurance, audit etc	£561.08	£571.63
	<u>£1,344.18</u>	<u>£1,547.73</u>
	£1,344.18	£1,547.73
	<u>£25,094.79</u>	<u>£25,499.20</u>
Closing Balances		
Lloyds Statement - Commercial IA Account	£0.00	£6,683.05
Lloyds Statement - Current Account less unrepresented cheques	£6,649.07	£370.43
Lloyds actual	£6,649.07 *	£7,053.48
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£10,000.00 **	£10,000.00
National Savings Income Bond	£8,445.72	£8,445.72
	<u>£25,094.79</u>	<u>£25,499.20</u>
Long Term Investments		
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£4,305.77	£4,305.77
	<u>£4,305.77</u>	<u>£4,305.77</u>


* includes £74.00 held for the War Memorial future maintenance

** includes £10,000 from Business Support Grant



Debbie Scott
 Clerk to the Burial Board
 6th April 2026

Alison Bourne
 Internal Auditor



8th April 2026