

ROTHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

1) Access

- No dogs are permitted to enter the cemetery, excepting for guide dogs.
- Vehicular access is prohibited, excepting for disabled users.
- Visitors are requested to assist in keeping the Cemetery in good order by keeping to the roads and paths.
- No person shall obstruct or interfere with employees of the Council at their duties.
- No person is allowed access to any building or enclosure in the Cemetery, except on lawful business.
- The Council may close the Cemetery, or any part thereof, to the public for such time as they may consider necessary or expedient.

2) Interments

- The Council, as Burial Authority, may grant to any person the Exclusive right of burial in any grave for a period of 100 years.
- Only caskets of wood or other biodegradable materials shall be used for interment.
- Whether or not exclusive rights of burial have been granted, permission is required to scatter cremated remains. No interment of ashes should be carried out without permission from the Council.
- Permanent mounding of graves shall not be permitted and the surface level of graves shall be that of the surrounding turf level.
- Occasionally we may need access to a grave next to yours for a burial. If so, we will erect a cover over your memorial to protect it and may place soil on the grave. This will last no more than a few days. On very rare occasions we may have to remove your memorial for safety reasons so we can access the grave. If we do so we will be fully responsible for restoring your memorial in a safe and clean state after the funeral. This could temporarily restrict access to your grave. This is unavoidable but we try to limit this to the shortest time possible

3) Memorials

- A memorial is any object placed upon the ground above a grave. It may be an engraved stone, cut flowers, vase or any other approved object.
- Flowers to be planted and bases placed only in plots in front of headstones (maximum size of plot 18" from face of stone.)
- Memorials purchased by persons other than the Grantee of Exclusive Rights are ultimately the responsibility of the Grantee.
- Although the intention is not to restrict choice, the Council as Burial Authority, reserves the right to object to an inscription that is, in their opinion, improper or undesirable.
- No planting, statuary or use of fencing, chippings, gravel, kerbs, borders or shingle is permitted on graves.
- On the day of the funeral, flowers and wreaths may be placed on the grave in which a burial takes place. The flowers and wreaths will be allowed to remain for a period of 14 days, after which council staff may remove them.
- The Council as Burial Authority has the authority to remove or alter memorials in any way they deem necessary or desirable for the due order of the cemeteries. Before taking any action the Council will attempt to contact owners and families.
- The cemetery staff may remove, or cause to be removed, any glass jar and vase or any other object considered to be a hazard to public safety or to cemetery staff, from any grave without notice.
- All memorials must be installed in compliance with BS8415:2018 or any later revision thereof.
- If you wish to place a memorial of any description on a grave, it has to be approved by the council and the appropriate fee paid. Otherwise, we have the right to remove it without informing you.
- Memorial height restriction being three feet six inches (1050mm), width restriction of three feet (900mm)
- Memorial height restriction for cremated remains being two feet six inches (750mm), width restriction of two feet (600mm)
- All headstones/memorials of whatever description, admitted into the cemetery or permitted to be erected therein shall be so erected and remain at the sole risk of the owner therefore, and the Council shall not be held responsible for any damage or breakage which may occur to the same.

- It is the memorial owner's responsibility to maintain memorials in a safe condition throughout the period of the exclusive right of burial. The Parish Council shall make reasonable efforts to communicate with grave owners by giving written notice by post to the owner when repairs are needed. If the owner does not make such repairs within six months after the issue of such a notice, the Council shall be at liberty to remove or lay flat the headstones. In the event of a memorial being in dangerous condition, immediate action will be taken,.
- Owners of memorials are strongly advised to seek information on the possibility of insurance cover against theft or damage to memorials through vandalism, severe weather conditions or accidental damage.
- Wildlife may occasionally eat flower heads or wreaths and enter the cemetery from adjoining areas, and the Council is limited in the control of this.
- All rubbish or waste flowers must be deposited in the receptacles provided.

Reclamation

- The Council as Burial Authority reserve all rights of management of the Cemetery. In particular with respect to unused capacity: in unpurchased graves this is liable to be used at any time; in a case where a grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial has been made but not exercised after a period of not less than 75 years; or if exercised, after a period of not less than 100 years

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 provides as follows:

"Offences in Cemeteries

1. No person shall;
 - (a) Wilfully create any disturbance in a Cemetery
 - (b) Commit any nuisance in a Cemetery
 - (c) Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place in a Cemetery
 - (d) Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter
 - (e) Play at any game or sport in a Cemetery.
2. No person not being an officer or servant of the burial authority or another person so authorised by or on behalf of the burial authority shall enter or remain in a Cemetery at any hour when it is closed to the public".

if any offences are committed, they may be reported to the police or other authorities for further action

These rules help to ensure that the Cemetery will be managed and maintained in a practical manner, whilst at the same time remaining attractive to visitors.