

LONGSTOCK PARISH CEMETERY REGULATIONS

1. Longstock Parish Council is the Burial Authority for Longstock Cemetery. On behalf of all residents of the village, Councillors are responsible for its upkeep as a place of quiet reflection. The point of contact is the Clerk on 01264 – 810752.

2. **Entitlement.** Right to burial in this cemetery is normally restricted to the following:

- those resident in, or visiting, Longstock at time of death.
- those previously resident, but who had paid for a plot while living here, regardless of length of residence in Longstock.
- those previously resident and who did not pay for a plot while living here, but who had lived in Longstock for at least 12 years in total during their lifetime.

Plots may no longer be reserved, although past reservations will be honoured. Double depth burial for couples is the norm; however where single depth burial has taken place the relict of the deceased may reserve an adjacent plot, if vacant. Consideration will be given to allocating adjacent plots to immediate family where space permits. **The Burial Authority is final arbiter in deciding entitlement.**

3. **Designs, Inscriptions and Ornaments.** Designs and inscriptions for memorials and other permanent mementos must be approved by the Burial Authority, which is responsible for maintaining a harmony of style and design in the cemetery to ensure that each new grave blends sympathetically with others. These guidelines should be followed:

- Material should normally be of a pale stone, matt not polished.
- Shape should be a simple upright, or an open book, or a single slab flush with the ground.
- An upright stone should be between 2 ft 6 ins and 4 ft high (measured from the ground); width between 1 ft 8 ins and 3 ft, and thickness between 3 ins and 6 ins. A child's upright stone may be smaller, but not less than 2 ft high, 1 ft 3 ins wide and 2 ins thick.
- Lettering and small designs should be incised into the stone or carved in relief. Lettering should be grey, black or gold; no colours; no enamel; no ceramics. Small, oval (max 3.5 ins x 3ins) discreet photo-plaques in black and white only are allowed.
- Unbreakable vases are allowed for flowers, but must be placed only at the headstone and not along the length of the grave. This is to enable the grass to be cut and the site maintained without hazard to those working. Plants in the ground are not allowed, nor are lights and other ornaments, whether freestanding or pushed into the ground, nor railings and surrounds of any description, chains, gravel, pebbles or other chippings.

4. **Benches.** Benches in memory of the deceased may only be placed in the cemetery with the express permission of the Burial Authority. There is a safety aspect, since the Burial Authority would be liable in event of accident to a member of the public and therefore must sanction placement of benches. The family donating the bench does so on the understanding that any member of the public may sit on any bench for quiet contemplation and they are not for exclusive use of the family.

5. **Care of Graves.** The family of the deceased is responsible for care of the grave, including removal of dead plants, and faded artificial flowers. The Burial Authority reserves the right to remove items if there is no obvious care of the grave for a prolonged period. When no living relation remains, care of the grave will pass to the Burial Authority. Graves will be levelled at the discretion of the Burial Authority – in no case in less than one year following interment.

6. The Burial Authority is the decision-making authority in all matters relating to the Cemetery. It retains the right to remove any hazardous items, and rectify any potential dangers to health or safety. However in cases of dispute, the Chancellor of the Diocese will arbitrate.

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