

GUIDE TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING NORTH END CEMETERY, LONGFRAMLINGTON

Introduction

Although these regulations are a necessary requirement for the management of the Longframlington North End Cemetery, every effort has been made to avoid restricting the rights and choices of the individual. Therefore the regulations have been prepared with a balance between individual rights and the need to regulate for safe and tidy grounds.

These notes are for the guidance of the general public, and not intended to be used as a guide for Memorial Masons or Sculptors.

Reservation of a Grave Space

A grave space without a burial in it may be reserved, for a fee, for a period of ten years, at which time it may be renewed at no additional charge. At the end of the ten year period the Parish Council will attempt to notify the owner of the right of the need to renew it. If it is not renewed the space may be re-allocated.

Memorials, Monuments and Headstones

Relatives wishing to place a headstone at a grave should seek approval from the Parish Council. A form is available from the Parish Clerk which requires details of the proposed headstone.

There are necessarily strict rules regarding the erection of memorials and therefore, if it is decided to erect a memorial, it is advisable to approach a Monumental Mason or Sculptor who will give advice on the choice of a suitable memorial that will meet your needs in both design and cost. It is necessary for a period of grave settlement to take place from the date of burial before a headstone is erected. **The Parish Council suggests that you seek advice on insurance in respect of your memorial.**

No memorial will be admitted to the cemetery except on condition that such memorial be erected and remain at the owners sole risk, and the Parish Council shall not be held responsible for any damage which may occur to the same.

The Parish Council offers a facility to mount a brass plaque on the memorial wall at the entrance to the cemetery, for persons who have been cremated. Plaques must be purchased through the Parish Council, and further details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

There are certain conditions regarding the dressings and maintenance of graves that you need to be aware of and these are listed below.

Kerbstones / Railings

Iron, concrete, stone, wood or plastic railings or other types of edging are not allowed.

Glass Globes / Vases

Glass globes or vases are not allowed on graves.

Vases

Vases, not exceeding 12 inches by 15 inches with one base, either with or without a suitable inscription, are allowed. Permission must first be obtained from the Parish Council.

Crosses and Small Monuments

Stone and wood crosses are allowed in the form of a headstone, but not those made of plastic or metal. Small monuments, as an alternative to a full size memorial, are allowed. Permission must first be obtained from the Parish Council and a fee may be charged.

All memorials erected within the cemetery shall be kept in good repair by and at the expense of the owner. The Council reserve the right to repair, make safe and remove any memorial which is allowed to fall into disrepair, become unsightly or dangerous, and to recharge the cost to the owner.

Floral Tributes

Wreaths and floral tributes may be removed as part of the cemetery maintenance once they have withered or faded. It is preferable that flowers displayed at a grave are fresh rather than artificial.

Plants

All graves will be turfed as soon as practicable after the burial, weather and ground conditions permitting. The Parish Council will allow plants to be planted on the grave only in front of the headstone in a border the width of the headstone extending a distance of no more than one foot from the edge of it. The mature size of the plants should be taken into account when considering which species to plant. The care of these plants remains the responsibility of the grave owner. The Parish Council will not be held responsible for damages to bedding plants should they be planted before the grave has settled and subsequently levelled off. Should the owner neglect to maintain the bedding plants and the grave becomes unkempt the Parish Council will take steps to have the grave turfed.

Memorial Plants or Seats

Request for any planting in memory of someone should be made in writing to the Parish Council. Requests for seats should also be made in this way. Due to the space available in the cemetery the number of plants and seats are limited, and trees cannot be considered.

Unconsecrated Ground

The cemetery has a small area of unconsecrated ground that is available for non-Christian burials. This area of ground must remain clear and cannot have any memorial plants or seats placed on it.

The Parish Council would appreciate your help in maintaining the environment of the cemetery. The rural nature of the cemetery means that plants are vulnerable to wildlife damage. Whilst the Parish Council endeavours to minimise this it cannot accept responsibility for damage to plants.

If you wish to raise a query about any matter relating to the cemetery please contact either the Clerk or Chair of the Parish Council. Contact details can be found for these people on the Parish Council notice board situated on the shop wall of the corner shop on Rothbury Road, the noticeboard at Cheviot Lodge bus stop and at www.longframlington-pc.org.uk.