

***XXXXX PARISH COUNCIL REVISED***  
***BURIAL REGULATIONS & FEES***  
***FOR XXXXX CEMETERY***  
***ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2017***

The Parish Council has reviewed the Parish Cemetery rules recently in the light of past and more recent practices to ensure that it is able to be maintained in an appropriate and decent manner.

The revised rules appear below and take effect from xx September 2017.

### **Parish Cemetery Rules**

#### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1 The Cemetery is normally open to the public between dawn and dusk each day.
- 1.2 The Cemetery is administered by and is under the charge of the Clerk to XXXXX Parish Council who can be contacted at Truffles, Pigtrough Lane, Donhead St Andrew, SP7 9ES; [donheadstandrewpc@gmail.com](mailto:donheadstandrewpc@gmail.com); 07539 600466.
- 1.3 Right of Interment: The following persons have a right of burial in XXXXX Cemetery:
- a. A resident of the Parish.
  - b. Any person who owns a reserved grave in the Cemetery.
  - c. Any resident who leaves the Parish to be admitted to a hospital or home or for some exceptional circumstances and who subsequently dies outside the Parish.
  - d. All other, at the discretion of the Parish Council, at **DOUBLE** the normal fees.
- The Parish Council shall be the sole judge of the right of burial under clauses c. and d. above.
- 1.4 Plans of the Cemetery, the rules and regulations, table of fees etc. may be viewed, without charge, by arrangement with the Clerk; emailed at no charge or hard copies provided at cost plus a small administrative charge.
- 1.5 The allocation of all grave spaces and cremated remains plots is subject to agreement and the approval of the Clerk.
- 1.6 The Council will maintain the Cemetery in a good and decent order. The Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or remove any shrubs or trees within the Cemetery at any time in order to maintain decent order.
- 1.7 Re-opening of Graves and Cremation Plots: Permission in writing from the surviving relative or executor must be submitted to the Parish Council when a grave is to be re-opened. There shall be no disturbance of any previous burial.
- 1.8 There is no vehicular access to the Cemetery except for approved contractors.

- 1.9 No dogs are allowed in the Cemetery except on a lead and must be prevented from defecating in the area.
- 1.10. The scattering of ashes is not permitted in the Cemetery.
- 1.11 Flowers Plants and Trees:
- a. Fresh flowers or ONE spray of artificial flowers can be displayed. Once artificial flowers begin to deteriorate, they should be replaced with new. Failure to replace them will result in the Parish Council removing them from the plot.
  - b. When floral tributes are removed, they should be disposed of in the compost bin provided at the Cemetery. All flowers should be removed when they have died. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove dead or tatty flowers.
  - c. Flowers can only be placed in memorial vases, secure vases within a curbed grave or in an integral vase. Loose vases are not permitted. Glass and plastic vases are not permitted. In the cremated remains section of the cemetery, all additional vases should be placed on the adjacent cremation wall.
  - d. Trees are not permitted on any grave but permission may be given to put a memorial tree and plaque in certain areas of the Cemetery.

## **2. BURIALS**

- 2.1 No burial shall take place, or any memorial placed relating thereto, without the prior permission of the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 2.2 In every case a minimum of 5 days notice shall be given to the Clerk, confirmed in writing within 24 hours, excluding weekends, Public and Bank Holidays. The only exceptions to this rule are in cases of epidemic diseases and where extraordinary circumstances prevail.
- 2.3 Every notice of interment shall be on the form provided or otherwise agreed by the Council and must contain a full and true statement of the particulars required and be signed by the applicant. All fees and charges shall be paid at the time of giving notice unless agreed by the Council. Upon completion, the applicant will receive a signed copy of approval and a set of Burial Regulations.
- 2.4 Orders or instructions received by telephone shall be confirmed in writing within twenty four hours. The Council will not accept responsibility for loss of any remittances or instructions forwarded by post.
- 2.5 The Registrar's or Coroner's Certificate for the disposal shall be sent to the Clerk prior to or at the time of the funeral.
- 2.6 Coffins: The Deceased must be placed in a properly constructed coffin or eco friendly coffin as agreed by the relevant funeral director before burial will be allowed to take place.
- 2.7 Digging and Reinstatement of Graves: It will be the responsibility of the appointed Funeral Director to arrange the digging of graves and cremation plots. A body shall not be interred in a grave in such a manner that any part of the coffin is at a depth less than three feet below the level of the surface of the ground of the grave space, nor shall the cremated remains of a body be interred in a grave in such a manner that any part of the casket is at a depth less than one foot below the level of the ground of the grave space.

Reinstatement must be to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. Turf is to be lifted carefully and stacked, and topsoil is to be piled. On reinstatement subsoil is to be compacted as firmly as possible with topsoil and turf replaced so that the finished result is a level lawned Cemetery after settlement.

A small mound of earth may be left immediately after the interment. It is the responsibility of the Funeral Director to monitor the soil levels after burial and within six months of the interment, the grave must be levelled with the surrounding turf and, if necessary, relawned.

## 2.8 Conveyance and Removal of Materials:

- a. All tools and equipment required for the digging, erection, reinstatement of graves or memorials shall be conveyed in the Cemetery in such a manner as to cause minimal damage.
- b. Care must be taken to avoid any damage to grassed areas in the Cemetery.
- c. Equipment and materials must be removed from the Cemetery immediately on the completion of work and at no expense to the Council. Spoil may be spread in an area allocated by the Parish Council at the back of the cemetery and out of sight of all visitors.
- d. If after receiving seven days notice in writing from the Parish Clerk, the person responsible for removing equipment, materials and spoil fails to comply with this regulation the Parish Council will clear the site, the cost of such clearance being passed to the person originally responsible.

## 3. **MEMORIALS (Burials)**

- 3.1 Before the erection of any memorial or other work relating to a burial plot, an application must be made to the Council on the appropriate form provided or otherwise agreed by the Council. This application must include a drawing/sketch with measurements and nature of the proposed memorial, along with full details of proposed inscription. Subject to approval and on payment of the appropriate fees, authorisation will be granted. No memorial may be erected or inscription made unless approved by the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 3.2 All Stone Memorials shall be constructed of good quality stone with all fixings made in accordance with recognised trade standards (Recommendations of the National Association of Monumental Masons or equivalent) and shall be stabilised using the recommended underground fixing. Headstones shall be erected vertically on the outer edge of the plot at the head of the grave and shall not exceed 48 inches in height measured from the ground nor 24 inches in width, nor 12 inches in thickness and shall be in positions approved by the Clerk.
- 3.3 For all other materials, please seek written approval from the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 3.4 Vases and flower containers must be part of the memorial. Containers may be placed on the grave during the first six months following interment pending the erection of a permanent memorial. Glass, China, Plastic Jars or Bottles are not allowed. Any such item may be removed at the discretion of the Parish Council.

- 3.5 **Flowers and shrubs must not be planted on graves. Only the planting of crocuses and snowdrops is permitted in the grass within 30cm of the headstone. The Council will remove any shrubs, plants or flowers that have been planted in the vicinity of burial plots and the cremated remains area of the Cemetery. This is to facilitate proper and effective maintenance of the Cemetery.**
- 3.6 The name of a mason and grave space number only may be inscribed low down at the side or on the reverse of a headstone in unpainted and unleaded not more than ½ inch in height.
- 3.7 The applicant or family of the deceased is responsible for the care of the memorial. The Parish Council cannot accept liability for any damage unless it is caused by its employees or contractors carrying out maintenance work.
- 3.8 Any memorial which is found to be loose must be secured to provide stability. It is the responsibility of the owner to arrange for this to be done. An application to re-fix a memorial must be made to the Council and work undertaken by a BRAMM registered stone mason.
- 3.9 Where a memorial has deteriorated, the Parish Council will attempt to contact the applicant or surviving family by posting a notice or sending a letter to the last known address of the owner in order that repairs can be carried out. Should this not be possible or the relatives fail to act in a reasonable time (six months) then the Parish Council may remove any such memorials without further notice.

The Parish Council reserves the right to take any such action as may be deemed appropriate in cases of neglected or vandalised memorials which in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) have become a danger to the public and the cost of such action may be sought from the family or legal representatives.

- 3.10 All persons erecting headstones or memorials must use such means as to protect the grass as directed by the Clerk or nominated representative and shall be responsible for the clearing of the site following erection of the same including surplus materials.
- 3.11 No grave shall be raised by the use of turf, or any other means, above the level of the ground in the immediate vicinity.

#### **4. INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS**

- 4.1 No burial of cremated remains shall take place, or any memorial placed relating thereto without the prior permission of the Clerk to the Parish Council. All excavations for the interment of cremated remains shall be undertaken only by persons approved by the Council.
- 4.2 Cremation Plots shall not exceed (12" x 18").
- 4.3 Cremated remains may not be interred 'loose' but in urns and caskets of a suitable design and construction which may be biodegradable.

## **5. MEMORIALS (Cremated Remains)**

- 5.1 A memorial tablet of a good quality natural stone material not exceeding 300mm x 450mm (12" x 18") with an inscription previously approved by the Clerk may be placed on the plot at ground level, in accordance with NAMM recommendations or equivalent. Nothing other than the memorial tablet may be placed on the ground in the vicinity of the plot.
- 5.2 Where no approved memorial tablet has been placed, no other type of memorial will be permitted.
- 5.3 Only sunken flower containers incorporated in a plaque are permitted. Raised, loose or fixed holders are prohibited. All additional vases should be placed on the adjacent cremation wall. No glass bowls or jars will be permitted. No chippings or borders or shuttering will be permitted on the grassed area of the Cremation Plot. All other containers and material will be removed and disposed of by the Council.**

XXXXX Parish Council reserves the power to make alterations from time to time to these burial rules and regulations.