

Cemetery Rules & Regulations
For
Ringstead Parish Council

Adopted: January 2015

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RINGSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Administration

- 1.1 Notice of any interment shall be given, on the prescribed form and signed by the person giving the same, to the Parish Clerk, two full days before the time of the proposed interment (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays), except in cases of death from infectious disease or other interments requires immediately upon medical or coroner's certificates.
- 1.2 All times of interment shall be negotiated with the Parish Clerk. The latest time a funeral service may start is 2.30 p.m.
- 1.3 The scale of fees will be approved by the Council on a periodic basis and will be available from the Clerk.
- 1.4 All fees and charges due to the Parish Council shall be paid to the Parish Clerk at the time of giving notice of interment.
- 1.5 The Certificate of the Registrar of Deaths, or in cases when an inquest has been held, the certificate of the Coroner, shall be produced, and in the cases of still born children, a certificate from a Surgeon or Registered or certified Midwife will be required on the prescribed form. These certificates shall be handed to the Parish Clerk before the interment takes place.
- 1.6 An interment of any person who is not an inhabitant or parishioner of Ringstead will have an additional cost as determined by the Parish Council.

2. Burial Details

- 2.1 The allocation of graves whether for ordinary interment or the purchase of exclusive right of burial will be subject to the approval of the Council and issued by the Clerk.
- 2.2 The Parish Clerk shall identify the burial plots on a plan of the appropriate section of the cemetery.
- 2.3 Cremation caskets can be placed in cremated remains plots or grave plots. If a grave plots is to be used, exclusive rights of burial must be purchased at the appropriate fee.
- 2.4 The Funeral Directors shall arrange for their own contractor to excavate and fill the grave.
- 2.5 The size of the plots shall be as follows:
 - a. Burials 8ft x 4ft
 - b. Cremation caskets 4ft x 2ft
 - c. Still births 4ft x 2ft
- 2.6 All graves shall be dug so that all parts of the coffin shall be at least one metre below ground level.
- 2.7 No grave shall be dug without the authority of the Parish Council.
- 2.8 There will be no double interment graves.
- 2.9 The interment of cremation caskets in a grave where a coffin has been interred will be allowed.

2.10 Vaults and bricked lined graves will not be allowed.

2.11 Only wooden coffins shall be used.

3. Memorials

3.1 Memorials shall only be allowed where exclusive rights of burial have been purchased.

3.2 All memorial masons must install memorials in accordance with BS8415 and the NAMM Code of Practice.

3.3 All memorials and inscriptions and the erection thereof shall be to the prior approval of the Parish Council. The format shall be submitted to the Parish Clerk on a form obtainable from the stonemason or the Clerk before permission is granted. On permission the payment of the fees will be accepted.

3.4 The Parish Council will consider on an individual basis applications to erect kerbstones. Applications must be accompanied by a picture of the selected kerbstones, together with the dimensions and details of which they are made. Details are also required on the material that will be used to fill the area within the kerbstones. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse applications.

3.5 The Parish Council will consider applications for kerbstones that are constructed from blue/black 'rope design' edging pieces. Applications must be accompanied by a picture of the selected kerbstones, together with the dimensions and details of which they are made. Details are also required on the material that will be used to fill the area within the kerbstones. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse applications.

3.6 Each grave shall be allowed a simple headstone which shall conform to the following dimensions and materials.

Dimensions (Maximum allowable) 762mm high x 533mm wide x 76mm thick

The headstone may stand on a small base of similar material, which can incorporate a removable vase.

Each headstone shall contain the number of the grave at the rear of the base. The Mason's name may be discreetly displayed in a similar position.

3.7 All memorials admitted to the cemetery or permitted to be placed therein, shall remain at the sole risk of the owner, and the Parish Council will not be responsible for any damage or breakage that may occur.

3.8 No memorial or part of a memorial may be removed from the cemetery without the prior approval of the Parish Council. Any memorial removed in the process of opening a grave shall be removed at the risk and expense of the person requiring the grave to be opened.

3.9 The Parish Council reserve the right to remove or prevent the erection of any grave stone, tablet, memorial or vase for which no permit has been issued.

3.10 Natural wreaths and flowers may be placed on the graves, but on the owner's responsibility, and suitable receptacles for flowers may be permitted as long as properly in use. Dead or withered flowers shall be removed and placed in a receptacle provided for the purpose.

3.11 All memorials or receptacles for floral tributes must be placed within the curtilage of the grave.

3.12 It is not permitted to plant trees on graves as they are not in keeping with the layout of the cemetery.

3.13 The Parish Council will not be responsible for any accident to monuments or gravestones occasioned by any cause.

4. The Internment

4.1 Arrangements for the attendance of a minister of Religion (if required) shall be made by the relatives or the funeral director, and the Parish Council accepts no responsibility in connection therein.

4.2 The time arranged for an internment shall be the time at which the cortege is to arrive at the cemetery and shall be strictly adhered to.

5. Exclusive Rights of Burial

5.1 The Parish Council may grant the exclusive right of burial in any grave space or cremated remains space upon submission of any application to purchase such rights.

5.2 The purchase of the exclusive right of burial shall be for 100 years, after which all rights shall revert to the Parish Council.

5.3 Owners of exclusive rights of burial cannot transfer such rights to anyone without the consent of the Parish Council.

5.4 No grave in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has been granted shall be opened without the consent in writing of the rights or his executor or agent.

5.5 Plots for the exclusive rights of burial shall be strictly issued on the basis of the next available.

5.6 A written record shall be kept of all plots for the exclusive right of burial and a certificate issued by the Parish Clerk as proof of this right.

6. Cremated remains

6.1 Cremation plots may be purchased.

6.2 Biodegradable receptacles shall be used for cremated remains.

6.3 All internments are subject to normal conditions.

6.4 The certificate for burial of ashes issued by the Registrar of the Crematorium shall be produced to the Parish Clerk before the internment takes place.

6.5 Ashes may be scattered at the cemetery with the consent of the Parish Clerk.

7. Maintenance of graves and memorials

7.1 The owner of the headstone or memorial, being the person who had it put up, and his successors in title, remain responsible for the stone or memorial.

7.2 The owner of the stone is liable for any injury if a person is injured by the unsafe condition of the gravestone if he does not prevent the stone from causing injury.

7.3 If the owner of the Burial Rights elects not to have a grave surface of turf, which would be maintained by the Parish Council, the owner is responsible for the maintenance of the grave surface.

- 7.4 The Parish Council has the power to put and keep in order any unkempt grave. The Parish Council can require the family of the deceased to meet the costs.
- 7.5 The Parish Council may undertake at any time, with reasonable notice, an inspection of the cemetery to identify potential dangers. A suitably qualified person will be appointed to carry out this work.
- 7.6 The Parish Council will exercise its powers under the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 to make safe any headstones or kerbs. The Parish Council will follow the procedures specified in Schedule 3 to the Order.
- 7.7 Any memorials that appear likely to cause injury or damage at any moment will be cordoned off and warnings will be placed.
- 8. Responsibilities of the Parish Council.**
- 8.1 The Parish Council will be responsible for the proper running, administration and maintenance of the cemetery.
- 8.2 A Register of Burials and a Register of Graves will be kept by the Parish Clerk. Searches may be made by prior arrangement.
- 8.3 The Parish Council reserves the right to make alterations from time to time in the tables of fees and charges.
- 8.4 These Regulations are drawn up by Ringstead Parish Council for the proper conduct and operation of the cemetery. Any variation or alteration to these regulations and procedures may only be made with the express agreement of the Parish Council.
- 8.5 The decision of the Parish Council will be final in all cases.

January 2015