

Regulations for the Administration and Management of the Cemetery.

Cemeteries and graveyards are now important habitats for wild life. Because no fertilizer or pesticide is used on the grassy areas, the wild flowers can flourish. For this reason the moon daisies, meadow saxifrage, bluebells are allowed to flower and seed before being cut at the end of June.

The aim is to preserve this important local habitat and not only maintain the grounds so they give pleasure to the many people who come here, but also provide a fitting resting place for the people of this parish.

1. Hours of Interment.

The hours for interments (for all denominations) are Monday to Friday: 10am to 5pm or dusk if earlier. No interments may take place outside of these hours, at weekends or on Bank Holidays except in cases of special emergency or religious need and payment of an appropriate additional fee.

2. Notice of Interment

No burials shall take place without the prior agreement of the Superintendent.

Not less than two full working days' notice shall be given of any interment. If such an interment is wanted for a Monday (Tuesday if the Monday is a Bank Holiday) the notice must be given before 4pm on the previous Wednesday.

All notices of interment must be made on the forms provided by Bucklebury Parish Council and requirements must be clearly and completely stated. The responsibility for any error therein is that of the person signing the notice, particularly so in cases where either the wrong fee is charged as a consequence or where additional fees are afterwards incurred.

Bucklebury Parish Council will refuse to allow interments when there is reason to believe details given on the notice are incorrect, the disposal certificate is not available for inspection to authenticate the identity of the person to be interred prior to the burial, or if the necessary Notice mentioned above has not been given.

3. Categories of Persons

Only parishioners or, at the discretion of Bucklebury Parish Council, close relatives will be accepted for burial in the Cemetery. Parishioners are considered to be people who reside or have resided in the parish within the last 10 years.

4. Exclusive Right of Burial

Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial does not purchase the associated plot of land, only the right to use that plot exclusively for the burial of remains or ashes.

It is advisable that once the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial has been interred within the grave, then arrangements be made for transfer of ownership. No further

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burials, interments of cremated remains, additional inscriptions or installation of new memorials will be permitted until revised entitled ownership has been established.

No transfer of an Exclusive Right of Burial in any grave shall be deemed valid until formally entered and verified by the Superintendent.

5. Allocation of Grave Spaces.

Grave spaces must be used in their numerical order or such other order as may be determined by the Council from time to time.

6. Memorials

No tombstone or other memorial shall be placed in the Cemetery and no additional inscription shall be made without a permit issued by the Superintendent.

The maximum size of memorials is as follows: 1m high x 61cm wide. The maximum size for Cremation markers is 40cm square and 12.5cm high for cremation plots.

The associated grave number must be cut at the foot of all headstones, so as to be visible when erected. No inscription shall refer to trade or business.

All memorials must comply with current NAMM recommendations.

Only cremation memorial stones may be laid horizontally; no memorials, railings, fencing, kerbs or other structures enclosing graves, other than the existing are permitted in any section of the Cemetery.

Memorials shall be of Portland, granite, marble, Hoptonwood or other approved natural stone.

Approval of the design and specification of memorials must be obtained from the Parish Council before installation. Application forms and specifications can be obtained from the Clerk.

A wooden cross may be erected. Such a memorial will only be allowed over any grave where the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased and prior consent has been given by the Superintendent. Bucklebury Parish Council will remove any wooden cross for which prior consent has not been obtained. Such wooden crosses shall be made of hardwood and the surfaces dressed to a smooth finish.

All memorials will face east unless special permission is given by the Superintendent.

7. Official Plan

The Official Plans of the Cemetery are held by the Superintendent and may be inspected by appointment.

The Cemetery is divided into two areas:

- The Old Cemetery
- The New Cemetery

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8. Fees and Charges

All fees will be paid in advance to Bucklebury Parish Council. The tariff will be as currently agreed by the Council and available from the Superintendent.

9. Opening Hours

The Cemetery will be open to pedestrians at all reasonable hours. However, Bucklebury Parish Council reserves the right to close or restrict access to the Cemetery for repairs or emergencies at any time.

Vehicular access shall only be with the express permission of the Cemetery Superintendent.

10. Management of Graves

As soon as convenient after the interment of a body or cremated remains Bucklebury Parish Council shall level the ground at its own expense over the whole of the grave space. Thereafter no person other than the duly authorised officers of the Council shall alter the surface except for the purpose of further interments. No soil or compost may be bought into the Cemetery (other than with pot plants).

11. Tributes

The aim is to ensure a standard that offends no-one, as what pleases one may displease another. Glass is highly dangerous and not permitted in the Cemetery. In the New Cemetery, the planting of shrubs and trees (however small) is not permitted.

A single container may be placed at the head of the grave and shall not exceed 16cm in height and 20cm in diameter. No plant may exceed the height of the memorial, impact on adjacent grave spaces or obscure the wording on the memorial.

Fresh cut flowers, silk flowers, wreaths etc. may be placed on a grave at any time. All dead or damaged tributes will be removed at the discretion of Bucklebury Parish Council. Plastic flowers will not be permitted. Only one floral tribute is allowed on any grave.

BPC reserves the right to remove the receptacles for flowers or other items from graves if they are considered unsuitable.

12. Repairs and Maintenance

All memorials must be kept in proper repair by the owner or owners. In the event of a memorial becoming dangerous or defective, Bucklebury Parish Council will attempt to give notice to the owner to carry out proper repair, but reserves the right to remove or repair any memorial that doesn't comply with current safety regulations. The Council will inform the owners of any necessary repairs and if the repairs are not carried out, the Council will remove the memorial or make the necessary repairs and pass the costs on to the owners.

13. Health and Safety

Any person or contractor using or working in the Cemetery is responsible for ensuring that appropriate health and safety procedures are observed.

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14. Liabilities

Bucklebury Parish Council will not accept liability for any person or contractor using or visiting the Cemetery. The Council will not accept liability for lost, stolen or damaged property.

15. Dogs

Dogs shall be kept on the lead at all times and under strict control. Owners must pick up any faeces dropped by their dog. Any owner not abiding by this ruling is liable to prosecution.

16. Cycling

Cycling is not permitted in the Cemetery.