

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

for Osgathorpe Cemetery , Breedon Lane , Osgathorpe.

Tranquility and Appearance of Cemetery

The Parish Council endeavours to ensure that the cemetery is managed as an area of tranquility for remembrance of the people whose remains have been placed here. We seek to have a generally harmonious appearance for the whole cemetery and to avoid the placing on graves of unusual or inappropriate items that appear out of keeping with the overall state of the cemetery.

Three months after a burial the Parish Council particularly wishes not to have ephemeral objects (such as toys of any description and plastic items) on graves because of the probability of their decaying or being dislodged, and so spoiling the character of the cemetery. Accordingly permission should be sought before anything other than the usual memorials, natural flowers or pot plants are put on graves. In the interests of the general community, the Parish Council has to reserve the right to refuse permission, or to remove to a store, anything placed without written permission.

Opening times.

The cemetery is open daily.

Dogs (other than recognised assistance dogs) are not permitted within the cemetery grounds. Visitors are requested to keep to the designated paths. Please close the gates behind you. Children should be supervised at all times.

Any vandalism, littering or failure to adhere to these rules should, in the first instance, be reported to the Parish Clerk. Any person who shall do any willful damage in the cemetery or commit any brawling or nuisance therein shall be liable to a penalty in accordance with article 19 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.

Fees and charges.

All fees (see separate schedule available from the Parish Council office or on the web-site) are to be paid in advance to the Parish Clerk .

Death Certificate.

A Registrar's Certificate or Coroner's Order for Burial must be delivered to the Parish Clerk prior to the date of the burial or, in exceptional circumstances, at the time of interment.

Purchase of the Exclusive Right to Bury.

You may purchase the exclusive right to be buried in Osgathorpe Cemetery. However, it is not normally possible to reserve a plot specifically by its number, as a logical progression of plot use is needed to run the burial ground efficiently.

The exclusive right to bury is purchased for a period of 100 years. It may not be sold on or used for any other person, other than by members of the holder's immediate family (e.g. parent, spouse/partner, brother, sister or child).

All burial plots measure 7ft by 3ft (2.13m by 0.91m).

Floral tributes.

All funeral wreaths and flowers will be left on a new grave for a period not less than four weeks. After the four week period has elapsed, the wreaths and flowers may be removed if this has not already been done by the family of the deceased.

Wreaths placed at Christmas will be removed by the Parish Clerk by St. Valentine's Day. Other wreaths will be removed after one month.

Stone Memorials.

A six-month ground settlement period is required following a burial before a memorial can be installed. However, depending on ground conditions, this period could be longer. Within 12 months following a burial, the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial must install a permanent granite memorial. Prior to a permanent memorial being installed a temporary wooden memorial shall be erected to mark the grave.

All memorials erected in the cemetery must be granite in black, red, white or grey, in keeping with the surroundings and the design approved by the Parish Council prior to erection. All memorials must be at the head end of the grave.

Permitted measurements are:-

The total height of a memorial from adjacent ground level shall not exceed 3 ft (0.91 m).

Flat stones - Height	4ins (0.11m)
Width and Depth	1ft 6ins (0.47m)
Headstones - Height	3ft (0.91m) maximum
Width	2ft 6ins (0.76m) maximum
Base	3ft (0.91m) maximum in length
Depth	3ins (0.076m) minimum

Kerbset	- Adult Kerb	7ft by 3ft maximum (2.13m by 0.91m)
	Childs up to 4 years Kerb	4ft 6ins by 2ft 6ins (1.37m by 0.76m)
	Adult and Child Kerb Height	6 ins (0.15m) maximum
Vase	- Height	2ft (0.61m) maximum
	- Width and Depth or Diameter	1ft 6ins (0.47m) maximum

Those wishing to erect a memorial shall apply to the Parish Council with a detailed design and the appropriate fee, prior to commissioning. Headstones, vases and tablets are allowed subject to the necessary approval.

Planting of Plants, Shrubs and Trees.

Full length planting of a grave is not permitted, nor is the planting of trees and shrubs within the cemetery except in designated areas and prior permission of the Parish Council.

Fencing, Kerbs and Surrounds.

Burial areas, maintained and managed by the Parish Council, are laid out as lawned sections for ease of maintenance. Consequently fences and planting into the plot are not permitted. Kerbs and grave surrounds are permitted with the prior approval of the Parish Council but are not encouraged because of their impact on maintenance of the lawned sections.

The installation of new surrounds in any material is not permitted on earthen graves. Any such installation may be removed by the Parish Council without prior notice, as may any material not described in these regulations, as detracting from the general appearance of the cemetery.

Interment of Cremated Remains into a Grave Plot.

A maximum of two cremated remains caskets can be interred in a plot which already contains a coffin. A maximum of four cremated remains caskets may be interred in a plot without a coffin. There is a charge each time for opening the grave, to cover administration and subsequent ground maintenance to the plot.

Locations for Scattering of Cremated Remains.

This may only take place on areas designated by the Parish Council.

Health and Safety.

The Council does not provide a grave digging service. The funeral service company is responsible for instructing and paying the grave digger and for ensuring that risk assessments and the necessary health and safety procedures are followed.

Note to Funeral Services companies: The Parish Clerk must be contacted before undertaking any commercial activity within the cemetery. This would include, for example, the placing of flowers in the grounds of the cemetery to enable mourners to view their tributes in the days following the funeral.

Memorial safety.

Responsibility for ensuring that any memorial, headstone, vase or container or other item of tribute erected on a grave in the cemetery is maintained in a safe condition lies with the deceased person's next of kin. However, the Parish Council has an overriding duty to take, as far as reasonably practicable, measures to prevent injury or death from unstable memorials. If a headstone is found to be unsafe and dangerous it will be made safe by the Parish Council. The grave owner will then be contacted to ascertain if they would like the headstone re-fixed, if that is possible. The grave owner will be responsible for any charges in connection with having the memorial made good.

The Council recommends that all memorials should be insured against theft, loss or damage. Most monumental masons can arrange for insurance cover.

All memorials are to be installed by competent persons in compliance with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice and to performance specification BS 8415: 2005.

Conditions of sale of the exclusive right to bury.

The purchaser of the exclusive right to bury in any plot must keep the plot tidy to contribute to the overall appearance of the cemetery and to make it a pleasant place to visit. The purchaser is expected to observe the requirements set out in this document. If it appears that they are not being adhered to the Council will raise the matter with the purchaser so that it can be resolved amicably.

The Council reserves the right to take appropriate action if agreement cannot be reached and the infringement continues.

THE CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE FROM 1st FEBRUARY 2023, AND WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE OSGATHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WHICH WAS HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2023.