

STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL.

Cemetery Byelaws and Guidelines for the Wykin Lane Cemetery, Stoke Golding.

Revised 2016

The cemetery is managed and operated in accordance with the **Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977**.

By **Article 3(1)** of the **Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977**, Stoke Golding Parish Council may do all things, as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.

No person in any cemetery shall:-

Wilfully create any disturbance.

Commit any nuisance.

Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place.

Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault or tombstone or other memorial or any flowers or plants on any such grave.

The hours of opening shall be from dawn to dusk.

Damaging or destroying property is in Contravention of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and will be dealt with accordingly.

The maximum fine is in accordance with the current legislation.

No dogs with the exception of guide dogs will be allowed in the cemetery.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ERECTION OF MEMORIALS IN THE NEW CEMETERY.

Burial areas within the cemetery are laid out as lawned sections for ease of maintenance and consequently fences, kerbs, and grave surrounds will not be permitted.

Purchasers of graves may erect memorials subject to obtaining written authority from the Burial Authority representative and by paying the appropriate fee. The following provisions apply:-

Wooden Crosses. The installation of wooden crosses may only be granted to undertakers for the purpose of marking a grave as a temporary measure prior to the installation of a permanent memorial of some type of stone.

Stone Memorials. All memorials in the cemetery must be of some natural quarried stone and the design must be approved by the Burial Authority's representative before erection. No full grave memorial may exceed 3ft 6ins in width or 4ft in height. Cremation and casket plots memorials may not exceed 2ft in width and 2ft 6ins in height. Persons wishing to erect any memorial must consult the Burial Authority's regulations before applying to do so. Only one memorial is permitted per grave plot but additional names and details may be added to an existing memorial with the permission of the Burial Authority. All memorials and the installation of such memorials must be fitted by a qualified stonemason and works must be carried out to the recognised industry standard as

laid down by the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice giving at least a 20 year guarantee.

Any memorial placed in the cemetery on behalf of a deceased person shall remain the property of that person so placing it who shall be responsible for its placing, upkeep and continued safety. If the stone, for any reason becomes a danger to the public the Burial Authority shall retain the right to demand that it be made safe or to demand its removal or they may remove the memorial or lay it flat without the permission of the owner and at the expense of the owner if they can be traced.

Any memorial installed in the cemetery will be inspected and tested every 3-5 years to ensure that it withstands a reasonable pressure that may be applied by users of the cemetery.

Plaques

A brass plaque memorial to a person may be attached to the memorial wall with the written permission of the Cemetery Administrator and by payment of the appropriate fee.

The planting of trees and shrubs. The planting of trees and shrubs is not permitted within the cemetery grounds except by permission of the Burial Authority in specially designated areas usually in memory of the deceased.

Graves

The planting of trees, shrubs, flowers or bulbs or the placing of toys or other objects on a grave is not permitted to ensure that regular and problem free maintenance of the grave area can be completed. Flowers are, of course permitted to be placed on the headstone or in a pot associated with that head stone.

In order to keep the cemetery in good order or repair the burial authority will trim or spray weeds etc on un-tended graves. Trees/bushes that have not been granted the right to be planted in the cemetery or are encroaching on other grave spaces may be removed by the burial authority

Turfing. All new graves will be turfed by the Parish Council after settlement has taken place on the grave when weather conditions permit. This may, in some cases be several months.

Fences kerbs and surrounds. The installation of kerbs or surrounds in any material is not permitted on graves or cremation plots and any such installation will be removed by the Burial Authority without prior notice as may any material not described in these notes, and which, in the opinion of the Burial Authority detracts from the general tidiness of the cemetery and ease of maintenance.

CONSECRATION OF BURIAL PLOTS.

To allow freedom of choice, the Parish Council has decided that grave plots in the new cemetery will not be consecrated in their entirety. However the cemetery has been blessed

by ministers of local Christian churches at the Opening Ceremony in 2008

FORMAL BURIAL AREA.

There will be separate areas for full burial plots and cremation plots, in the formal burial area of the new cemetery. All burial plots will be used in strictly numerical order and therefore special 'burial spots' cannot be selected and purchased out of sequence by a purchaser for future use. A maximum number of three full burials may be made in one plot in the formal burial area although four further cremation caskets may be added when the grave is 'full'. In the case of the purchase of two side by side plots the second plot will of course be reserved for future use.

When any grave is purchased, what is acquired is the Grant of the Right to Burial in that site only. Buying a plot does not confer ownership of the ground or any other rights.

Permission must be obtained from the Cemetery Administrator to inter remains in the cemetery or to erect any form of memorial. Fees in relation to such applications will vary from time to time and details are available from the Burial Authority.

'SCATTERING OF ASHES'

Ashes will be 'scattered' by removing a layer of turf between the trees on the main drive from the road and inserting the ashes and replacing the turf. The scattering of ashes by throwing them onto open ground is not permitted. No memorial or marker is permitted for the scattering of ashes. A memorial plaque may be placed on the central feature with permission of the Burial Authority.

These notes are for guidance only and should not be read as a comprehensive set of rules.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS IN RELATION TO GREEN BURIALS.

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL IS ABLE TO DEVELOP THEIR NATURAL WOODLAND BURIAL AREA IN LINE WITH ITS AIMS OF CREATING A PLACE OF PEACE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON AND THOSE WHO MOURN THEM AND A NATURE RESERVE OF SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL VALUE TO THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT.

The Parish Council has decided that the area dedicated for 'woodland burials' shall be reserved for 'green burials' of the residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington for the time being, until such time as they are able to accurately judge the requirements of those two villages for such burials. It may then be possible to allow burials of persons there, of persons from outside Stoke Golding and Dadlington. Special fees apply in relation to the burial of Dadlington residents.

All burials must be properly booked with the cemetery administrator who must be provided with the necessary forms from either the registrar of deaths or the crematorium.

Details of fees payable are available from the cemetery administrator and all fees which will vary from time to time must be paid in advance of any burial.

All excavations are to be carried out by the Burial Authority gravedigger and all interments must be conducted under the auspices of a registered undertaker.

The Burial Authority will develop the green burial area by the planting of trees from time to time and anyone wishing to purchase and dedicate a tree to a deceased person should contact the cemetery administrator for details of the cost involved. The installation of wooden crosses or any other type of memorial is not permitted in the woodland area.

It is intended, that after some time, the site of a 'green burial' will not be easily identifiable except by the cemetery administrator whose duty it is to keep records of all burials.

Advance purchases of plots for a 'green burial' may be made, but as it is intended that all burials will be close to previous interments, purchasers will not be able to choose a plot at random and as it is intended to plant trees over the area from time to time to complete the 'woodland' effect it will not be possible for example for two people to book adjacent plots; one for future use. The next available plot will thus be allocated to such a purchaser when a plot is actually needed. Only one coffin interment is permitted in each grave plot in the 'green burial area.' The only exception to this might be circumstances where two people have died at the same time.

The Burial Authority's decision as to which plot is actually allocated throughout the whole cemetery shall be final.

A body that has been embalmed or otherwise treated with noxious or toxic chemicals cannot be interred on the 'woodland area' site. Cremated remains cannot be scattered on the surface of the green area as this would alter the chemical balances needed to support such an area. All coffins and cremated remains caskets must be those which are fully biodegradable and environmentally friendly. The plastic urns in which ashes are sometimes returned from crematoria are not biodegradable and cannot therefore be interred

No monument, vault, statue, fencing, kerb, railing, marker or any memorial may be placed on a grave.

When a grave is purchased, what is acquired is the Grant of the Right to Burial in that site only. Buying a plot does not confer ownership of the ground or any other rights.

These notes are for guidance only and should not be read as a comprehensive set of rules.