

Weedon Parish Council

CHAPEL GRAVEYARD REGULATIONS

Note – These Regulations are in addition to the provision of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and any other appropriate regulations currently in force.

1. General

- 1.1 The Weedon Chapel Graveyard is managed and maintained by Weedon Parish Council¹, which holds a 99-year lease (to 2115) from the Methodist Church. All enquiries should be made to the Clerk to the Parish Council², who is the officer responsible for the administration of the Graveyard.
- 1.2 The fees for burial are set by and payable to Weedon Parish Council. Payments are to be sent to the Clerk in advance of an interment or memorial works.
- 1.3 The deceased must normally have been a resident of the Parish at the time of death as determined by the electoral roll, or the child of such resident provided the child is less than 18 years of age. Residents of the Parish who may have left to go into care because of infirmity are considered residents at time of death.
- 1.4 The Council reserves the right to amend these regulations and to deal with any circumstances not provided for in the regulations as necessary.

2. Conditions of Admission to the Chapel Graveyard

- 2.1 The Chapel Graveyard is a place of peace and quiet reflection. Visitors must not stand, sit or lean on any memorial or otherwise act in such a way as to cause damage to Chapel Graveyard facilities or property, or offence to Chapel Graveyard visitors.
- 2.2 Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and dog owners are to ensure that their pets do not foul the graves or ashes plots. Dog owners are to remove any dog faeces immediately and after securing them in a plastic bag, are to deposit them in the dog bin at the entrance to the Park opposite.
- 2.3 No motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards or scooters are allowed in the Chapel Graveyard.
- 2.4 The whole of the grounds in the Chapel Graveyard, together with all growing trees and shrubs, as well as plants and flowers once placed on graves or ashes plots, are under the care of the Clerk or other authorised officer.

3. Purchasing the rights to a burial or ashes plot

- 3.1 All requests to purchase the right to a burial or ashes plot should be directed to the Clerk.
- 3.2 The exclusive right of burial (EROB) in a plot in the Chapel Graveyard may be purchased in advance or at the time of death by using the appropriate form.
- 3.3 The fees for the exclusive right of burial are at the rates which are in force at the time of the purchase.

¹ Hereafter referred to as the Council

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- 3.4 On payment of the prescribed fee, the purchaser of the exclusive right of burial will be given a Deed of Grant.
- 3.5 The purchase of the exclusive right of burial shall be for a period expiring on 6th May 2114, being the date of expiry of the Parish Council's lease to the graveyard.
- 3.6 The Deed of Grant must be produced to the Clerk with the Notice of Interment.
- 3.7 In the event of the owner being deceased and the Deed of Grant not being available, a statutory declaration must be made by their successor before burial can be authorised. A form is available from the Clerk for this process.
- 3.8 Where the burial is that of the last registered grave owner, and the family wish to continue the right to be buried in the same grave, the ownership must be transferred using the appropriate documents available from the Clerk.
- 3.9 The grantee or his or her successors must inform the Clerk when the right of ownership has been transferred to another person.

4. Interments

- 4.1 All requests for burials should be directed to the Clerk and no interment shall take place without the prior permission of the Clerk.
- 4.2 The Notice of Interment must be given to the Clerk at least 3 working days prior to the interment although a provisional booking may be made by email or telephone prior to completing the Notice of Interment.
- 4.3 A properly completed Notice of Interment must be submitted on the Council's form. Responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies rests with the person giving the Notice.
- 4.4 Interments shall normally take place on Mondays to Fridays inclusive.
- 4.5 The Registrar's or Coroner's Certificate for the disposal shall be submitted to the Clerk at least one day prior to the interment.
- 4.6 It is the responsibility of the person making the funeral arrangements to ensure that any existing memorial on the grave is removed from it at least 72 hours before the interment.
- 4.7 For the burial of a stillborn child, the Certificate of the Registrar of Births and Deaths that he or she has registered the stillbirth or has received official notice of the stillbirth or a Coroner's Order for Burial must be delivered to the Clerk at least one day prior to the interment.
- 4.8 The fees for burials are at the rates which are in force at the time of interment. The fees do not include charges for the undertaker, grave digger or religious person officiating at the burial.
- 4.9 Where the exclusive right of burial has not been purchased in advance, the EROB fee must be paid in addition to the interment fee at the time of burial.

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5. Graves

- 5.1 The burial plot will be allocated by the Clerk.
- 5.2 The Council does not undertake the digging of graves or ashes plots. Responsibility for this task rests with the undertaker. Grave diggers must adhere to the Code of Practice for Grave Digging. No grave shall be dug in the burial ground without consultation with the Clerk.
- 5.3 The depths of graves shall be subject, from time to time, to the regulation, supervision and direction of the Council; normally no grave will be allowed to be deepened after first interment.
- 5.4 In view of 5.3 above, it is advised that if the eventual intention is that the grave should hold more than one deceased, then an EROB for a double-depth plot should be purchased (in advance or at the time of the first death), and the grave should be dug to the appropriate depth for the interment of the first deceased.
- 5.5 Reinstatement includes the requirement that, after a period of six months to allow for settlement, all graves must then be levelled and grass reinstated with a minimum of 4 inches (10cm) of top soil. In the absence of such reinstatement the Council will complete the work, without notice, and the cost shall be repaid to the Council by the undertakers.

6. Coffins, caskets and urns

- 6.1 Coffins, caskets and urns for burial must be made from suitable bio-degradable materials such as wood, wicker, cane, cardboard, bamboo etc. The Council also permits shroud burial.

7. Cremated Remains

- 7.1 Cremated remains may be interred in designated "ashes" plots or in otherwise full graves subject to the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 relating to the opening of such graves.
- 7.2 A maximum of 6 cremated remains may be added to a full-size grave containing previous burials.
- 7.3 The cremated remains plot will be allocated by the Clerk.
- 7.4 The exclusive right of burial may be purchased for plots for the interment of cremated remains. The grant of the exclusive right shall be in accordance with Section 3 of these Regulations.
- 7.5 No burial of cremated remains shall take place without the prior permission of the Clerk.
- 7.6 Cremated remains must be interred either in a biodegradable container or directly into a single, poured, definable location in the ground.
- 7.7 Cremated remains may not be scattered in the Chapel Graveyard.
- 7.8 The Clerk is responsible for maintaining a diagrammatic record of casket or poured remains' positions within a gravesite.
- 7.9 Section 4 of these Regulations shall also apply to the interment of cremated remains.

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7.10 Before digging an area on an existing grave, grave diggers must obtain from the Clerk the casket location chart to determine where previous remains have been buried. Grave diggers are to take care so as not to expose or disturb previous interments.

8. Fees

8.1 The current fees can be found on the Weedon website (www.weedonbucks.org.uk) or by contacting the Clerk.

8.2 All fees for interments shall be paid in advance.

8.3 All fees for memorials shall be paid prior to their erection.

9. Memorials and Inscriptions

9.1 All memorials fixed in the Chapel Graveyard must comply with British Standard 8415 and the BRAMM Blue Book.

9.2 The Clerk must be notified of any memorial works prior to work commencing.

9.3 Headstones should normally be grey, black, red or white stone or marble. Headstones are not to exceed 1 metre / 3ft above ground level.

9.4 One third of the height of the headstone must be underground for safety reasons.

9.5 Kerbstones, fences or other structures around graves are not normally permitted.

9.6 Ashes tablets should not normally exceed 40cm x 40cm (16" x 16").

9.7 The Council reserves the right to approve proposed memorials. A drawing of the memorial showing details of the dimensions and inscription must be submitted to the Council for approval. The grave owner(s) must sign the form to give their permission for the proposed memorial works.

9.8 All memorials erected within the Chapel Graveyard shall be kept in good repair by and at the expense of the owner.

9.9 The Council has a duty to ensure memorials within the burial ground are safe, to ensure the safety of the public. The Council reserves the right to remove any memorial which is allowed to fall into disrepair or becomes dangerous.

9.10 The Council may remove any memorials, which have been placed within the Chapel Graveyard without the required permission.

9.11 Memorial masons must leave the area in a tidy condition following any work carried out. It is not possible for memorials to be stored in the Chapel Graveyard prior to installation.

9.12 The fee for the right to erect a memorial does not include charges for the manufacture, inscription or erection of the headstone or tablet.

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10. Maintenance of plots and disposal of rubbish

- 10.1 No trees or shrubs shall be planted within the Chapel Graveyard.
- 10.2 No dressing of the graves or headstones is permitted. This includes scarves, ribbons, soft toys and other objects considered by the Council as being inappropriate. The Council reserves the right to remove any inappropriate objects.
- 10.3 The Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or remove any overgrown plants placed on graves.
- 10.4 Floral tributes are to be removed before they deteriorate. Floral tributes that are considered to have deteriorated to an unsightly condition will be removed by the Council.
- 10.5 All waste, including dead flowers, plants, plant pots, vases or any other item, is to be removed and disposed of in appropriate receptacles away from the Chapel Graveyard.

11. Memorial tablets not associated with graves

- 11.1 The Council will consider requests for a memorial tablet to be placed in the Chapel Graveyard where there has been no interment. All requests should be directed to the Clerk.
- 11.2 Memorial tablets must lie flat on the ground, not exceed 30cm x 35cm (12"x14") and be placed in a location allocated by the Clerk.
- 11.3 The Council reserves the right to approve the proposed memorial tablet and wording for the inscription.