

# **WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CEMETERY GRAVE AND MEMORIAL CONDITIONS**

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The following conditions have been issued by Willingham Parish Council for the guidance of undertakers and also of relatives of those interred in the Cemetery. They are designed to cover burials in grave spaces, burials of cremated remains, and also the type of memorial or headstone that may be erected on a grave space or cremation plot.

The Parish Clerk will supply two copies of the conditions at the time of purchase and when permission for an interment is sought. **Both copies must be signed by the funeral arranger, one copy should be returned to the Parish Clerk; the second copy should be retained by the funeral arranger for their record.**

#### Undertakers carrying out works

No contractors' vehicles are allowed into the cemetery with the exception of digging machines which should be kept to the paths where possible; or without prior permission in writing from the Parish Clerk.

All grave digging soil must be removed from the cemetery. It is a requirement for all undertakers to top up graves with any settling/sinkage within the first year of interment.

Undertakers must carry appropriate insurance, have in place a health and safety policy and comply with any other statutory requirements. They must ensure that any contractors employed by them also comply with this condition, including having public liability insurance.

#### Exclusive right of burial

The grant for exclusive right of burial in a grave space or of ashes in a cremation plot will be for a period of 99 years from the date of burial. The exclusive right of burial can only be granted for single ownership.

If the burial right owner is the deceased, the Council will permit the burial of the burial right owner and the placement of their memorial with inscription. Any further maintenance/changes to the grave space will not be permitted without the prior transfer of the burial right. Guidance leaflets on the transfer of burial rights are available from the Parish Clerk.

#### Ashes

The Parish Council does NOT permit the scattering of ashes within the cemetery. Subject to the Council's approval and the Burial Right owner's permission ashes may also be interred into a burial plot where space allows and up to a maximum of two individuals ashes may be interred into a cremation plot

#### Grave space and Memorials

A grave space 7 feet six inches by 3 feet six inches may be used for up to two interments. Undertakers must indicate on the Instructions for Interment form whether the grave space is to be dug for one or two interments. This will be of help in the future.

Grave spaces must not be lined with brick or any other solid material.

Coffins should either be made of wood or biodegradable material. No metal coffins will be permitted in the cemetery.

Cremation plots will measure two square feet.

The area of the cemetery in use is a lawn design and consequently only headstones may be erected on grave spaces.

No kerbs, edgings, railings, chains, wire mesh or other fencing will be allowed.

The Council reserves the right to remove any items contravening any of these conditions without prior notice.

No monument constructed of plastic, wood (unless a temporary marker), glass, metal tiles or any form of grave covering such as chippings or artificial turf will be allowed other than in pre-existing graves with kerbs in which chippings can be placed safely, securely and sympathetically to the existing environment. The Council reserves the right to remove any additions not agreed or maintained.

It is permissible to garden an area of the grave not exceeding 6 feet by 2 feet including the headstone.

No decorations including lights are allowed.

All requests for seats/benches are to be fully funded by the applicant, sympathetic to the environment and fully maintained by the applicant. All applications will be considered on merit and the Council reserves the right to refuse.

No free standing monuments are allowed. However, headstones may include incorporated designs within specified limits.

Owners must keep all monuments and headstones in good repair.

The Council reserves the right to prune any plant or shrub if it becomes neglected.

The Council reserves the right to top up any graves.

Headstones must be no more than three feet from the ground, three feet wide or 18 inches deep including any foundation slab. Foundation slabs must be positioned flush with the ground level to aid grass cutting. The headstone must be positioned at the head of the grave flush with with the ground. The grave number must be discreetly and permanently shown on the back of the headstone. This will assist with identification in the future.

Memorials for cremation plots must be no more than 18 inches square and positioned flush with the ground level to aid grass cutting.

The exclusive right to a memorial on a plot would be for the same period as the exclusive right of burial on the same said plot and will NOT exceed this length of time.

No memorial may be erected in the cemetery without the prescribed fee having been paid in full and permission granted first. Undertakers or monumental masons must obtain written permission for all memorials and inscriptions from the Parish Clerk using the relevant application form (available from

the Parish Clerk). They should also notify the Parish Clerk of the day the memorial is likely to be erected.

An extra charge of £100 will be made if a memorial is placed in the cemetery without prior approval and full payment. This also includes any additional inscriptions that may be required at a later date.

All persons erecting a memorial must have Public Liability Insurance.

The Council will not be responsible for any damage to memorials or headstones made by:-

- weather conditions
- wilful acts by third parties
- maintenance contractors
- funeral directors, their employees and their machinery
- monumental masons, their employees and their machinery; or
- whilst a topple test is being carried out.

Permissions will only be given for replacement kerbs, vaults, etc.

Temporary grave markers constructed of wood and with an inscription plate not exceeding four inches by two inches are exempt from these conditions.

The Council will refuse permission for a memorial if it is not within these regulations or is deemed unsuitable.

The Council will review these regulations annually and amend as necessary.

A list of fees for the exclusive right of burial, interments and memorials and inscription is available from the Parish Clerk.

Any enquiries concerning the use of the cemetery should be referred to the Parish Clerk.

Name of deceased .....

Name of funeral arranger .....  
(next of kin/burial right owner)

Signature by funeral arranger .....

Date .....

Name of Funeral Director .....

Signataure of Funeral Director .....

Date .....