

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Regulations – Benwick Road Doddington

The whole of the Cemetery in Benwick Road Doddington is unconsecrated and operates as a Lawn Cemetery, which means that the area containing graves, is returned to lawn following burials and interments.

GENERAL

- 1 No interment will be undertaken on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and bank holidays unless there is an epidemic, or at a specific request of a doctor.
- 2 From Mondays to Saturdays burials and interments may take place between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm.
- 3 Fees charged for exclusive rights, interments and memorials will be similar to those charged by nearby Parish Councils and the Fenland District Council.
- 4 Double depth graves will be allowed, subject to space and ground conditions, and cremated remains may be interned in a burial plot. A child's grave will be accommodated in the general lawn area.

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN AN EARTHEN GRAVE

- 1 A Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial must be purchased before interment can take place in either a burial plot or cremation plot. Arrangements can be made through a Funeral Director or directly with the Parish Council clerk.
- 2 Burial Rights can be purchased at the time an interment takes place. Purchasing the Burial Rights for a grave or cremation space for use in the future is allowed and will be agreed between the applicant and the Parish Council clerk but will be restricted to those rows currently laid out for use.
- 3 When a grave is 'purchased', this refers to the purchase of the exclusive right of burial in a grave or cremation space and not the purchase of the land itself. This means that the purchaser does not own the land but has the exclusive right to say who can be interned, chose the memorial that can be placed on the space and make changes to the memorial.
- 4 In accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, all burial rights are issued for a fixed period. Doddington Parish Council currently issues them for a period of 75 years, from the date of issue, with the option to renew the rights at the end of this period.

MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLETS AND INSCRIPTIONS

- 1 The right to have a memorial erected on the burial plot will be fixed for 20 years. It may be renewed for a further period at no further cost. This regulation enables the Parish Council to maintain a relationship with the owner.

The holder of a Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial is responsible for the continuing safety of all memorials on the plot purchased. Regular inspections should be carried out by an approved NAMM or BRAMM stone mason to ensure the memorial remains safe.

The Council does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to any memorial placed on graves or cremation plots in the cemetery. **Insurance cover should be arranged by the person who is in possession of the exclusive rights of burial for the plot.**

- 2 Memorials, where the exclusive right of burial has been granted, must be securely fixed on the concrete foundation channel that is currently in place. The proposed design of all memorials shall be submitted to the Council, on the proper form together with the appropriate permit fee. Written approval must be obtained from the Council before any work is commenced. The application shall consist of a sketch showing the design, all dimensions, the stone to be used and all inscriptions.
- 3 As a general rule, headstones or similar must not exceed 3 ft (915mm) in height from the concrete foundation base. No more than two vases per grave space will be permitted and these must either be securely fixed to the concrete foundation base or the side of the headstone. Vases must not exceed 10" (225mm) in diameter and 8" in height.
- 4 Following an interment, a temporary marker, consisting of a small brass plate on a hardwood backboard and mounted on a short post, may be placed on a grave by a Funeral Director. The brass plate shall show the name of the deceased and the date of death. The marker may remain on the grave of a period of 12 months from the date of interment or until a permanent memorial is erected, whichever period is the shorter. Such a marker may be placed on a grave without the payment of any fee. As the memorial concrete foundation channel is already in place, a permanent memorial may be erected at any time by the owner of the Deed Grant.
- 5 **Erection of Railings, Kerbs, Fences etc:** These are not allowed in any part of the Lawn Cemetery including the erection of railings, fences or other structures enclosing graves and/or memorials. The provision of any artificial or natural particles of stone or slate will not be permitted on any part of a Lawn Section

Cremation Plots

- 1 The concrete memorial slabs in the cremation section measure 2ft x 2ft (610 mm x 610 mm). An inscription tablet measuring up to 18 ins x 18 ins (450 mm x 450 mm) may be securely fixed to the memorial slab.
- 2 Any inscription shall be subject to the Council's prior approval and the only item permitted to stand on inscription tablet shall be an approved vase which is securely fixed to the tablet.

General

- 1 The placing of free-standing ornaments, silk/plastic flowers, toys or receptacles of any material, including glass, plastic, or pottery containers either on the concrete foundation channel or on the grave or cremation plot are not allowed. Planting of any type of plant, bulbs, placing plants in free standing pots, bowls or unauthorised flower containers, is not permitted.

Christmas wreaths may be laid on a grave but must be removed by the following 15th March.
- 2 The Council reserves the right to remove any structure, memorial or item which does not comply with these Regulations or is detrimental to the good order of the cemetery.
- 3 The Parish Council will from time to time remove dead flowers from any grave or cremation plot.

4 Important Note

If a memorial is found to be unsafe it will either be supported with a temporary wooden stake or laid flat. The Council will make all reasonable efforts to contact the current owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial requesting that a permanent repair is arranged using a memorial mason.

The Council retains the right to remove at any time an unsafe memorial if the required repairs to the memorial are not carried out.

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