

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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REGULATIONS relating to the use of the Cemetery at St Saviour's, Eddington, Hungerford

As adopted by affirmative resolution of Hungerford Town Council being the responsible Authority on 3rd May 2016

1. Definitions: In these Regulations

- (a) 'the Council' means the Mayor and Councillors of Hungerford
- (b) 'the Cemetery' means the burial ground provided by the Council at St Saviour's, Eddington, Hungerford, for the interment of bodies and ashes
- (c) 'the Garden of Remembrance' means the part of the Cemetery reserved for the interment of ashes
- (d) 'the Clerk' means the Clerk to Hungerford Town Council whose name and address are set out above

2. Arrangements for Interment

- (a) the person having charge of the funeral shall make all arrangements with the Clergyman or Minister who is to officiate.
- (b) at least two clear days prior to interment (exclusive of Sundays and other public holidays) notice in writing must be given to the Clerk, by completion of the Interment Form, of the proposed date of interment, the name and address of the Clergyman or Minister who is to officiate and the full name, last known address, date of death, and age at date of death of the deceased.
- (c) When the exclusive right of burial in a grave is purchased, the full name and address of the person to be registered as the owner must be supplied and a deed of grant will be issued for 99 years. On the transfer of ownership of a grave such transfer should be registered with the Clerk on payment of the prescribed fee and the deed of grant produced for endorsement.
- (d) the Registrar's Certificate of Death or the Coroner's Order for burial (when an Inquest has been held) or the Certificate of Disposal (in the case of the burial of a stillborn child) must be delivered to the Clerk before the Interment.
- (e) all fees and charges, as detailed in the attached Schedule, must be paid to the Clerk within one month after interment.

3. Interment

- (a) Interment shall take place only in such grave space or (in the case of cremations) plot in the Garden of Remembrance as the Clerk shall specify. Reservation of plots for future use is not permitted save in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Council.
- (b) Hours of Interment shall be from 9 am to 6 pm from 1st April to 30th September and from 9 am to 4 pm from 1st October to 31st March. No second interment will be permitted within half an hour of the time previously appointed for any earlier interment
- (c) Coffins and caskets containing ashes shall be made only of wood or other bio-degradable materials. No more than two caskets may be interred in any plot.
- (d) Surplus soil remaining after interment must be placed in the skip provided or removed from the Cemetery and must not be deposited on any other part of the Cemetery.

4. Headstones and other memorials

- (a) Full details of any proposed headstone, memorial or other articles intended to be placed on any grave or interment plot, or any alterations to any existing memorials, together with any sketches, designs, drawings and proposed inscription, shall be submitted to the Clerk for approval prior to erection along with a completed Memorial Application Form and payment of the appropriate fee.
- (b) The Council reserves the right to refuse such approval for any such headstone, memorial or other articles which may be considered unsuitable, unsightly or inconsistent with the overall appearance and character of the Cemetery.
- (c) Any items erected or placed on or alongside any grave or interment plot or in any other part of the Cemetery without such approval or whose design, dimensions, positioning or appearance shall be inconsistent with the details previously submitted may be removed by the Council at any time after the expiry of 14 days after prior notice has been given to the owner of the grave or interment plot. The Council may also remove items which have become damaged, unsightly or potentially dangerous due to natural deterioration over time or any other cause.
- (d) No memorials shall be removed from the Cemetery without the consent of the Council. The painting of gravestones and memorials is prohibited. No vaults of any kind or stone surrounds will be permitted.
- (e) Headstones shall not exceed 3'6" (106.5cm) in height, be less than 1'6" (45.5cm) nor more than 2'3" (68.5cm) wide or be less than 2" (5cm) nor more than 5" (12.7cm) in thickness. The top surface of any base slab must be flush with the level of the surrounding grass or ground. Headstone bases shall not be more than 2'6" (76cm) wide nor longer than 1'6" (45.5cm) from front to back. Headstones must be vertical and must be erected at the head of the grave.
- (f) Each plot in the Garden of Remembrance shall be covered by a flat stone of neutral hue of size 18" x 18" (45.7cmx45.7cm) laid flush with the surrounding grass. Stones shall be set 10" (25.5cm) apart in rows and the rows shall be 10" (25.5cm) apart. The centres of the stones should be in line with the centres of the end-of-line markers. No other memorial of any kind shall be permitted. Stones should be laid and inscribed as soon as possible and in any event within one year after interment failing which the Council may place a plain stone slab to mark the plot.
- (g) All memorials must be kept in good repair by their owners at all times. If any memorial shall fall into disrepair it may be repaired or removed by the Council after giving prior reasonable notice and the expenses of repair or removal shall be

recoverable from the owner. The Council will regularly check the safety of memorials in accordance with current recommended guidelines.

- (g) All installations must be carried out in compliance with the National Association of Memorial Masons' Code of Practice and current statutory regulations. A list of recommended stonemasons may be obtained from the Council office. Should you wish to use an alternative stonemason the Council may require proof of their Association membership and satisfactory evidence of good quality workmanship and experience.

5. Flower Displays

- (a) Flowers to be placed or displayed on graves or interment plots must be fresh or made of biodegradable materials.
- (b) Vessels for permanent displays of flowers should be made of suitable materials other than glass and should be placed on, or set fully into, the memorial base. The opening of any vessel set into any stone in the Garden of Remembrance must be level with the top surface of the stone.
- (c) Free-standing vases may be placed on any grave or plot in the Garden of Remembrance but at the owner's sole risk as to loss or damage
- (d) The Council reserves the right to remove unsuitable vases or displays forthwith and dead or artificial flowers after a reasonable passage of time. Vases and displays may also be removed temporarily during maintenance of the Cemetery

6. Damage, nuisance and insurance

- (a) All damage howsoever caused to any part of the Cemetery or anything within it shall be repaired forthwith to the satisfaction of the Council by the person causing it, failing which the Council shall be entitled to carry out such repair at such person's expense.
- (b) No person shall in the Cemetery or any part of it:
 - (i) use weed killers or other chemicals save with the Council's consent
 - (ii) drive or park any motor vehicle or motorcycle other than on the carriageway and parking areas provided
 - (iii) allow any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the Cemetery unless held under proper control on a lead
 - (iv) cause any damage, nuisance or disturbance or behave in an unseemly or improper manner.
- (c) The Town Council cannot provide insurance against damage to memorials or graves. Owners are recommended to make their own insurance arrangements.

7. Enforcement and Variation of Regulations

- (a) Any person who contravenes any of these Regulations may be liable to civil proceedings at the instigation of the Council or to prosecution under the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1972 or such other statute law as shall be applicable from time to time.
- (b) The Council reserves the right to vary, add to, amend or delete any of these Regulations or of the fees, charges and other details set out in the Schedule at any time. Following any variation, the full text thereof shall be suitably published.