

SILEBY CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Decoration of Graves and Memorials

It is recognised that the issue of grave and memorial decoration is a very personal and sensitive issue. The following regulations have been designed to allow bereaved families the opportunity to decorate their family grave and memorial in a way which does not impact on safe access to graves and areas of the grounds and that does not prohibit or restrict works or maintenance of the grounds.

A guidance leaflet [has been] produced and is available on the Parish Council website, at the Parish Council office and at local Funeral Directors. However, in order to avoid any distress where there is doubt, it is essential that before any items are placed on a grave/memorial the Parish Council office should be contacted to seek guidance and the necessary permissions.

Lawn Graves

Immediately following an interment within a grave the soil will be mounded over the excavation, this is to allow for settlement. We will also place on all new graves a temporary marker stating the name of the deceased.

Families are permitted to personalise the mounded area of the grave with **temporary** vases and other decorative items. However, all such temporary items shall allow for safe access to all other graves/areas. The maintenance of all such works will be undertaken by the family. Where it is clear that the area is not being maintained or has become neglected, dilapidated or where the works pose a health and safety hazard, the Council reserves the right to remove any or all items placed at any such time as is convenient to the Council.

All new and re-opened graves will normally be turfed 12 - 18 months following interment. Notices will be placed on the notice board in the cemetery and at the Parish Council office, as well as on the Parish Council website, giving details of when the turfing programme is due to commence. This is to allow families time to remove their temporary memorials and other personal and decorative items.

Items not removed by the family at the commencement of the turfing programme will be removed by the Councils' Contractor. The Parish Council will not be responsible for the safe keeping of any items removed. The lawn graves will be boxed mowed with grass cuttings collected to keep the area tidy.

Following the completion of the turfing programme decorative items will only be permitted on the memorial headstone base and, if the family wish, within 12 inches immediately in front of the memorial headstone and no wider than the headstone. This area may be cultivated with plants or laid to slab. If cultivated, the deed holder is responsible for upkeep and keeping weed free. Planting is restricted to annual plants or bulbs which would not exceed 12 inches in height. If slabbed, the slab must be chosen from the [authorised list] and sit above ground level. See illustration of these arrangements.

Consideration will be given for placing funeral wreaths, flowers for birthdays etc. These will be generally disposed of after 14 days. **The following items will not be permitted at any time:**

- Glass items, including bottles
- Tin, including beer cans
- Wind chimes or lighting, including solar powered lights
- Fences, stones, chippings or boundary markers

No items will be permitted on the turfed area of the grave.

No wooden, plastic or metal stakes (this includes flags, shepherd crooks, windmills, or similar items) above 12 inches of any kind will be permitted on any grave/memorial following the turfing programme.

The Council will not be held liable for any damage to items, whether caused during our maintenance of the grounds or by any other works or activities.

The Council reserves the right to remove any item placed on any grave that is considered unsuitable, damaged, dilapidated, dangerous etc. Where appropriate, items removed will be stored for collection by the family, however the Council cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping.

Should there be any infringements of these Regulations which present a potential health and safety hazard, impair the maintenance operations or which, in the opinion of the Council be in a state of disrepair or unsightly, the Council reserve the right to remove or alter any works or items following adequate notice to the persons concerned.

Cremated Remains Plots

On the area set aside for interment of Cremated Remains, no decorative items including; vases, planters, statues, ornaments, toys wind chimes or lanterns, or similar items will

be permitted on the turfed area surrounding the memorial slabs. All items placed must be located on the memorial slab/concrete beam.

The following items will not be permitted at any time on or around the memorial:

- Glass items, including bottles
- Tin, including beer cans
- Wind chimes or lighting, including solar powered lights
- Fences, stones, chippings or boundary markers

The turf surrounding the Cremated Remains plot shall not be cut away or interfered with by any person. This section will be trimmed and grass cuttings collected to keep the area tidy. No wooden, plastic, or metal stakes (this includes flags, shepherd crooks, windmills, or similar items) above 12 inches of any kind will be permitted on any grave/memorial. Consideration will be given for placing funeral wreaths, flowers for birthdays etc. These will be generally disposed of after 14 days.

The Council reserves the right to remove any item placed on any grave that is considered unsuitable, damaged, dilapidated, dangerous etc. Where appropriate items removed will be stored for collection by the family, but the Council cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping. All items will be removed at a time convenient to the Council.

Contact

Where it is necessary to remove any items placed, the Council will, where possible, make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation, and/or place notices within the area affected explaining the action taken. This will give the family the opportunity to remove the items.

If items placed on a grave are considered to pose a significant hazard to visitors or staff or prohibit the maintenance of any area of the cemetery grounds, items will be removed and we will then make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation explaining the action taken. We appreciate that the person or persons placing the items may not be the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation; however, the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation may be aware of the persons placing the items and be able to explain the action taken.

We will in all cases make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation at the address shown in our records, it is therefore important to keep the Parish Council informed of any change of address to ensure that contact details and our records are kept up to date.