

# Misson Parish Council

## Cemetery Regulations

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. These regulations apply to all burial grounds and cemeteries owned and/or managed by the Council.
- 1.2. Currently the sites include:

Misson Cemetery, Top Road, Misson

## **2. Contact Details**

- 2.1. All funeral bookings, general enquiries and comments regarding the Cemeteries/Burial Grounds should be directed to:

Sarah Youngman, Parish Clerk; 133 Station Road Bawtry Doncaster DN106QD.

The Parish Clerk is available from 09.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday.

- 2.2. These Regulations are in addition to the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and any other appropriate regulations currently in force.

## **3. Admission to the Burial Grounds**

- 3.1. The Cemeteries/Burial Grounds are open for visitors every day of the year.
- 3.2. The Cemeteries/Burial Grounds are places of peace and quiet reflection. They are also workplaces. Visitors to the sites are welcome, but please respect the special nature of the site, the needs of other users, and safety factors. No games, sports, riding of bicycles, skateboards, and roller blades or similar are allowed in the burial grounds. No consumption of alcohol or drugs may take place within the burial grounds.

## **4. General Regulations**

- 4.1. No employee of the Council is allowed to take any gratuity, or to undertake paid private work of any kind in connection with the cemetery/burial ground either in their own time or during their employed hours.
- 4.2. No person shall canvass or solicit business in the burial grounds.
- 4.3. All fees for interments or memorial works must be paid in full to the Council in advance.
- 4.4. The Council will publish a scale of fees and charges annually. Residents of the area will qualify for reduced fees compared to non-residents. A resident is defined as somebody who, immediately prior to their death, was a resident of the area, or who lived in the area for over ten years and moved out of the area less than 24 months before their death. Exceptions will be made if the deceased had to move out of the parish into a hospital, hospice or nursing home, then the excess non-parishioner charges will not apply.
- 4.5. The Council reserves the right to amend these regulations and to deal with any circumstances or contingency not provided for in the regulations as necessary.

## **5. Graves**

- 5.1. Graves are available in the cemetery/burial ground, which consists of consecrated and unconsecrated sections. Burial spaces should be allocated in available order at the final discretion of the Parish Council unless other plots are specifically requested.
- 5.2. Every interment shall take place either in a private or public grave. Private Graves are graves to which an Exclusive Right of Burial has been issued. Public graves are graves which remain in the ownership of the Council and to which no specific rights have been granted.
- 5.3. The Exclusive Right of Burial for a grave can be purchased for a period of 100 years. The Exclusive Right of Burial also allows a memorial to be placed on the grave subject to the memorial rights fee being paid.
- 5.4. (The Exclusive Right of Burial can no longer be purchased in advance of need, i.e. graves cannot be pre-purchased or reserved). Any existing pre-purchased plots will incur only interment and memorial fees. Exclusive Right of Burial can only be transferred to another person or persons who are entitled and via the legal process adopted by the council.
- 5.5. Memorials will only be permitted on purchased graves. Memorials must conform to the regulations given at 9 below.
- 5.6. All graves will be excavated and prepared for interment by the Council or their appointed contractors only. No other person or company will be allowed to undertake any excavation within the cemetery/burial ground except with the express permission of the Manager/Clerk. The depth of each grave will be determined by the Council or appointed contractor in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.
- 5.7. Following the interment the Council or their appointed contractor will level the grave and either re-turf or topsoil and seed it as appropriate to the season. The appointed contractor is responsible for the removal of all excess soil; under no circumstances should excess soil be left on or around the grounds.

## **6. Coffins**

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

## **7. Booking of Interments**

- 7.1. A provisional booking for a funeral may be made by telephone to the Parish Clerk.
- 7.2. The provisional booking should be followed up by the submission of a completed Notice of Interment to the Parish Clerk at least 48 working hours in advance of the intended date and time of the funeral. Receipt of the fully and correctly completed Notice of Interment will act as confirmation of the provisional booking.
- 7.3. In respect of private graves, the deed of grant for the exclusive right of burial will be registered in the name of the applicant for the burial indicated on the notice of interment and signed by that person.
- 7.4. The **exact size** of the coffin, casket or container must be given in writing to the Council as soon as possible after the provisional booking, together with any other pertinent information relating to its size and shape (e.g. locking bar handles, casket shape, wicker coffin etc). The Council will subsequently add a suitably amount to the given size in order to determine the dimensions of grave to be excavated.

- 7.5. As much information relating to the funeral as possible must be given to the Council in advance, especially if it is unusual, e.g. large number of mourners expected, motorbike cavalcade, jazz band, piper etc.
- 7.6. If the grave is purchased and is to be reopened for a further interment, the written permission of the registered grave owner must be given, except where the burial is that of the registered grave owner.
- 7.7. It is the responsibility of the person making the funeral arrangements to ensure that any memorial on the grave is removed from it at least 48 working hours prior to the date and time of the funeral.
- 7.8. The Certificate given by the Registrar of Births and Deaths or an order of the Coroner must be delivered to the Parish Clerk prior to the funeral.
- 7.9. The Council will determine the appropriate fees to be paid for the funeral, which must be paid fully in advance.

## **8. Interments**

- 8.1. Funerals will normally only be permitted Monday to Friday 09.30 – 15.00 (excluding Bank or other Public Holidays). It may be possible to arrange funerals outside of these times subject to additional cost. Please contact the Manager/Clerk if a time outside of the permitted hours is required.
- 8.2. All funerals will be subject to the control of the Council's designated officer, who will meet the cortege and direct it to the Chapel and/or grave as appropriate.
- 8.3. The time appointed for an interment must be punctually observed. The Council reserves the right to delay a late arriving funeral in the event that it impacts on another service.
- 8.4. Services in the cemetery/burial ground chapel must not exceed 30 minutes, unless special arrangements for a longer time have been made with the Manager/Clerk and the appropriate fee paid.
- 8.5. It is the responsibility of the person making the funeral arrangements to organize a Minister or Officiant for the funeral if one is required.
- 8.6. Any floral tributes from the funeral will be placed on top of the grave following backfilling, and will remain in situ for a minimum of 14 days before being cleared by Council staff (unless family have already removed them).

## **9. Memorials**

- 9.1. The Council has adopted a Management of Memorials Policy dealing with current and future memorial installations, safety inspections and making safe unstable memorials. Masons carrying out work in the burial grounds must comply with the Council's Management of Memorials Policy.
- 9.2. All memorials fixed in the cemetery/burial ground must comply with British Standard 8415 (Latest version) and the BRAMM Blue Book (Latest version).
- 9.3. Ground anchors and fixing systems used in the construction of memorials must have a certificate of compliance with BS 8415 (Latest version).

- 9.4. Only those memorial masons businesses that are BRAMM or National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) accredited, and those memorial masons that hold a current BRAMM Fixer Licence, will be able to work in the cemetery/burial ground. Fixers who do not hold a BRAMM Fixer Licence will only be permitted to work under the direct supervision of a mason who holds a BRAMM Fixer Licence. This is to ensure that British Standard BS 8415 is complied with.
- 9.5. Memorials will only be permitted on purchased graves. No memorial will be permitted on a public grave.
- 9.6. Memorials other than those fixed by a BRAMM or NAMM accredited memorial mason are not allowed. Fences cannot be erected around a grave nor the space defined; other than through planting of suitable plants or the installation of proper kerbsets by a BRAMM/NAMM accredited memorial mason. On lawn sections planting is confined to the head of the grave and no objects must be placed on the length of the grave.
- 9.7. Before any memorial may be erected or works undertaken to an existing memorial, an application must be submitted to the Manager/Clerk. The grave owner must sign the form to give their permission for the proposed memorial/works. On approval by the Council a permit will be issued to the responsible Memorial Mason.
- 9.8. Memorials must be constructed of materials suitable to the environment and period of grave lease. The Council reserves the right to reject an application for any memorial that it deems unsuitable.
- 9.9. The maximum height of lawn memorials is 3', the maximum width is 2' and the depth is 12". The memorial must be a minimum of 3" thick. On traditional graves the Council will consider applications for larger memorials subject to them being satisfied that the installation is compliant with current recognized industry standards. The Council will also consider the installation of kerbsets if they are constructed to current recognized industry standards. On cremated remains and children's graves the maximum height of a memorial is 2' and the maximum width 18".
- 9.10. The memorial mason must inscribe the company name only on the reverse of the stone towards the base in lettering not more than 1" high. No trademark, phone number or other advertising will be allowed. The memorial mason must also inscribe the grave number towards the bottom right hand side of the reverse of the memorial in letters not exceeding 1" high. On kerbstones the grave number must be inscribed on the right hand side of the foot kerb.
- 9.11. Memorial masons must remove all arising's from the cemetery/burial ground at the conclusion of their work, and must leave the area in a tidy condition. It is not possible for memorials to be stored in the cemetery/burial ground prior to re-fixing following a burial – all such memorials must be removed from the site by the memorial mason appointed to remove the memorials prior to the grave being excavated.

## **10. Care of Graves and Memorials**

- 10.1. All memorials are erected at the sole responsibility of the owner and the Council shall not be held responsible for any damage to or caused by the memorial, howsoever incurred. The memorial remains the responsibility of the grave owner during the lease period of the grave. The Council reserves the right to repair or make safe any memorial which becomes unsafe or falls in to disrepair, and to recover any expenses from the registered owner. The Council will undertake routine safety checks on all memorials, and will notify the grave owner at the last registered address of any necessary works to make the memorial safe. The grave owner will be given a

period of 6 months from the date of the letter to effect the necessary repairs. The Council reserves the right to temporarily make safe any memorials that pose a threat until such works are completed. If the grave owner does not arrange for the repairs to be made, the Council may repair or remove the memorial at the owner's expense.

- 10.2. Grave spaces must be kept in a neat and tidy condition, and all litter must be removed from the site.
- 10.3. All flower holders or other items left on graves must be made of non-breakable material. Any items left on graves are at the owners' risk and the Council cannot be held responsible for any damage to them howsoever caused. The Council may remove any articles from any grave that are likely to cause risk, damage or offence to other visitors to the cemetery/burial ground or which interfere with the Council's maintenance of the site. Grave owners will be permitted to place personal items on either side of the memorial and/or on a one foot strip to the front of the memorial. Grave owners are requested to adhere to this rule so as to enable maintenance of the grass areas without risk of damaging any personal items.
- 10.4. No trees may be planted on graves. Only suitable planting such as annual bedding or small shrubs only will be permitted on traditional graves and in the head border of lawn graves. The Council may remove any plants that it considers unsuitable or that infringe on other grave spaces or interfere with the Council's maintenance work.