



Verwood Town Council

Acting as the Burial Authority for the Parish of
Verwood & Three Legged Cross

Verwood Cemetery Regulations

These Regulations are effective from 27/09/2016 (amended 06/09/2016 & 31/10/2023)

1. VISITOR RULES AT VERWOOD CEMETERY

- 1.1 The Cemetery is open to the public during the hours of daylight only. Children under 10 must be accompanied by a responsible person. Visitors are asked to keep to the gravel paths. No dogs are permitted in the Cemetery, with the exception of guide dogs.
- 1.2 No private vehicles, other than those accompanying a funeral, or of visitors to graves shall be permitted in the Cemetery. No vehicle is permitted on the grassed areas.
- 1.3 Any person who willfully destroys, damages or defaces any wall or fence, or damages any plants or flowers, or willfully damages or defaces any memorial or inscription, or any other willful damage, or play any game or sport, or discharge firearms (save at a military funeral) or disturb any persons attending a funeral or grave, or commit any other nuisance within the Cemetery, will be prosecuted.

2. ARRANGING A BURIAL

- 2.1 A Register of all Burials is held by the Clerk of Verwood Town Council where searches may be made and certified extracts obtained, during office opening hours. A charge may be made for the search.
- 2.2 Permission of the Clerk of the Town Council must be applied for, at least two days prior to any interment, in every case, exclusive of Sundays and Public Holidays and no applications can be received on these days, emergencies excepted.
- 2.3 The Notice of Interment must be on the form provided by the Council.
- 2.4 The Exclusive Right of Burial of a grave space can be purchased at the appropriate fee.
- 2.5 The owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial shall maintain any memorial in good order and condition to the satisfaction of the Town Clerk.
- 2.6 Burial plots will be allocated in strict rotation and no pre-purchase of grave spaces is allowed.
- 2.7 The Cemetery is for the exclusive use of residents of Verwood and Three Legged Cross, or those with historical residential association who relocated due to ill-health or old age.
- 2.8 All fees must be paid to the Clerk to the Council at the time of giving notice of interment.
- 2.9 The hours of interment are between 10.00am and 4.00pm Mondays to Fridays and between 10.00am and 12 noon on Saturdays. No interment may take place on Sundays or Public Holidays.

3. GRAVESITE RULES AND MEMORIALS

- 3.1 All grave spaces will be levelled 6 months after interment, earth mounds not being permitted. In the lawn area, planting of the grave space with plants or shrubs is strictly prohibited.
- 3.2 Wreaths and flowers are permitted on the grave on the day of interment, after which flowers are allowed on the headstone itself. No containers or objects are permitted and must be placed in accordance with these Regulations (see 3.1 above).
- 3.3 No trees or shrubs may be planted without the consent of the Council.
- 3.4 Wire cages on any graves are strictly prohibited and will be removed.

- 3.5 No form of kerbing, fencing, chippings or permanent artificial grass is permitted in the Cemetery.
- 3.6 There is wildlife in the Cemetery and the Council cannot be held responsible for the destruction of fresh flowers and wreaths by the wildlife.
- 3.7 Memorials can only be erected upon a grave where the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted and only with prior consent of the Clerk to the Council.
- 3.8 All plans of headstones, ground slabs, cremation tablets and inscriptions must be submitted to the Council for approval and no memorial may be erected before approval is received.
- 3.9 Headstones are only permitted as memorials on graves. They must be constructed from natural stone or granite by a recognized stonemason. The dimensions must not exceed 90cm high, 61cm wide and 13cm depth for replacement headstones, OR 100cm high, 61cm width and 13cm depth. Any flower vase or other container is to be an integral part of the memorial and the size shall not exceed 91cm wide and 30cm in depth. Suitable foundations must be provided in order to prevent memorials from sinking and must be constructed in accordance with the Code of Working Practice issued by BRAMM. It is also advised that the headstones have a concrete slab fixed at ground level with a projection of some 8cm all round as a protection to the headstone during grass cutting.
- 3.10 Ground slabs are permitted as memorials on graves. The dimensions must be 61cm by 61cm. The ground slab must be installed flush with the ground. No inlays/vases or embellishments are permitted on ground slabs, unless otherwise agreed by the Town Council.
- 3.11 Permission must be obtained before a ceramic photograph is to be allowed on a memorial. The size should not exceed 15cm by 10cms.
- 3.12 Garden of Remembrance – plaques must be 30cm high by 45cm by 3.1cm.
- 3.13 Cremation tablets are permitted on purchased cremation plots and shall not exceed 18cm in height, 61cm in width and 6.1cm in depth.
- 3.14 The Application to Re-open a Purchased Grave form must be signed before a purchased grave can be re-opened for a subsequent interment.
- 3.15 Any damage done to any part of the Cemetery at the time of erection of a memorial stone must be repaired immediately by the person or persons responsible for the damage, to the satisfaction of the Council.

4. GENERAL CEMETERY RULES

- 4.1 The scattering of ashes is not permitted in the Cemetery.
- 4.2 In no case shall human remains be removed except by Order of the Home Office.
- 4.3 The Council cannot be held responsible for any damage to a memorial.
- 4.4 The Council reserves the right to remove any grave adornments that have become faded, unsightly or are causing an obstruction, without notice.
- 4.5 The Council reserves the right to decide on any matter not listed in the regulations.
- 4.6 The Clerk of the Council's decision in respect of all matters of interpretation of these Regulations and all matters relating to the management of the Cemetery administered by Verwood Town Council shall be final.
- 4.7 The Council reserves the right to make alterations to these regulations.