



KINGS WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

BURIAL GROUND REGULATIONS

1. Right of Interment

Parishioners whose names appear or are eligible to appear in the Register of Electors for Kings Worthy, and any children residing in the parish, may be interred in the Burial Ground at Lovedon Lane on payment of the appropriate fee as set out in the Scale of Charges.

Parishioners who had moved from the village to long term care would remain eligible.

Former Parishioners who had been a resident in the Parish until up to 5 years prior to their death would also be eligible.

The people who had never lived in the Parish or had lived elsewhere for more than 5 years, but whose family wish them to be interred in the Lovedon Lane Burial Ground would be at the discretion of the Parish Council, subject to an application being made allowing 4 days for a decision.

2. Notice of Interment

At least two working days' notice of every intended interment must be given to the Parish Clerk on a form prescribed by the Parish Council.

On receipt of a Notice of Interment the Parish Council shall confirm the details by fax, letter or email.

3. Certificates

A Disposal Certificate of the Registrar or, where appropriate, of the Coroner, must be handed to the Parish Clerk with the Notice of Interment, or to the Officiating Minister at the Burial Ground before an interment takes place.

In the case of a stillborn child, the appropriate certificate under the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 must be produced.

4. Place of Interments

All grave spaces will be allocated by the Registrar acting for the Parish Council.

All graves will be dug and mounded to the reasonable satisfaction of the Parish Council and will be the responsibility of the Funeral Director.

5. Depth of Graves

A body shall not be interred in a grave in such a manner that any part of the coffin is at a depth of less than 3 feet below the level of the surface of the ground of the grave space, nor shall the cremated remains of a body be interred in a grave in such a manner that any part of the casket is at a depth of less than 1 foot below the level of the ground of the grave space.

Not more than 2 interments shall take place in one grave space.

The minimum depth for a grave shall be 4'6" for one interment, 6'6" for two interments.

After burial a mound of no more than 15cm may be left.

6. Coffins

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Coffins shall be made of suitable biodegradable materials and no metal or other non-biodegradable coffins, caskets or containers will be allowed.

No burials are allowed without a suitable coffin.

7. Hours of Interment

The hours of interments in the Burial Ground will be from 9am to 5pm. Interments will be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Not more than one funeral will be allowed to take place at one time.

8. Covering of Graves

Whenever an interment has taken place the surface of the grave will be covered with turf by the Parish Council as soon as reasonably possible after natural subsidence of the earth has taken place (normally within 24 months). No mounds will be allowed on any grave. After levelling has taken place no vases, containers or any other memorial will be permitted in anything other than the normal headstone position.

9 Re-Opening of Graves

A body shall not be interred in a grave in which an interment has already taken place unless the coffin containing that body is effectively separated from any other coffin previously placed and remaining in the ground, by means of a layer of earth not less than 6" in depth.

Where any grave in which an interment has already taken place is re-opened for the purpose of making a second interment, there shall be no disturbance of human remains already interred therein.

10. Flowers

To permit a well maintained area no flowers or shrubs shall be planted on any grave space.

Wreaths can remain on a grave for up to 2 weeks, after which they may be removed on the authorisation of the Clerk.

After levelling has taken place vases, containers or any other memorial will only be permitted on any grave space if mounted on, or integral to, the vase base of the headstone. If no headstone incorporating a vase is erected, one flower base will be allowed above ground level in the normal headstone position. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove flowers or flower containers which are unsuitable (glass jars etc.), or which are incorrectly positioned as described above.

The Parish Council regrets that no responsibility can be accepted for the removal of, or damage to flowers or vases, especially during the grass cutting season.

11. Purchased Graves

Purchase of graves before the first interment in that space will not be permitted.

12. Erection of Headstones, Crosses and Plaques

One memorial only, in the form of a headstone, a stone vase, a cross of stone or durable hardwood, may be placed at the head of any grave. Where a flower vase is an integral part of the headstone this will be permitted, but no additional memorials or flower containers will be allowed on any grave space or cremation plot.

The consent of the Parish Council, acting through the Registrar, shall be obtained before any memorial is erected or any inscription is placed on a proposed or existing memorial. Such consent will only be given if the proposed memorial complies with the requirements of this regulation. The Parish Council will not be responsible for the cost of removal of any memorial which is unauthorised or incorrectly fixed. Payment of the appropriate fees as set out in the Scale of Charges must be made in advance.

Memorials must not exceed 3 feet in height, measured from ground level, nor shall it be more than 2 feet wide; it shall have a thickness of not less than 3" or more than 6", except in the case of slate, which may be thinner, but not less than 1.5" in thickness. An exception maybe made in the case of a proposed erection of a stone cross, which may vary in thickness while conforming to overall dimensions as stated; a detailed application to be made to the Registrar. No vase base shall be more than 26" wide. Consideration will be given in the case of graves for children under the age of 5 to vary the size on grounds of proportionality on a case by case basis.

A wooden cross is acceptable provided it is constructed of a durable hardwood of a minimum thickness of 3" and a maximum of 4". It should not exceed the height and width shown above.

Every memorial shall be fixed firmly in the ground on an approved foundation which shall be wholly below ground level. Details of the foundation and fixing shall be provided at the time of seeking consent.

No memorial shall be constructed of bricks and plaster, bath, other soft stone, cane, zinc, iron or any other metal or synthetic material, or wood other than teak or oak. Memorial in granite may have a polished finish to the face and surface of any vase-base.

No memorial shall be removed from the Burial Ground except with the consent of Parish Council, acting through the Registrar.

The Parish Council can accept no responsibility for damaged to memorials unless caused by a person employed by the Parish Council.

Gravel must not be placed around the memorial.

A plaque or memorial in the cremation area shall not exceed 15" x 15", but not less than 2" in thickness overall, and the regulations concerning material and inscriptions shall apply as above.

No picture or photograph shall be incorporated in any memorial.

13. Headstones and Wooden Crosses

If a wooden/stone cross or headstone deteriorates and/or becomes unsafe the Parish Council will attempt to contact the family at the last known address and by placing a notice on the cross. If, after a period of 12 months or it is deemed to be unsafe, the Parish Council reserves the right to remove it.

14. Conveyance and Removal of Materials etc.

All boards, tools and other material or plant required in the erection of memorials shall, in the Burial Ground, be conveyed by hand, on carts or trucks, the wheels of which must have a tyre width of not less than 4". At no expense to the Parish Council all such equipment, materials and any surplus soil shall be removed from the Burial Ground immediately on completion of the erection of a memorial and, while the work remains unfinished, at the end of each day. Care must be taken to avoid cutting up or damaging the roads, paths or grassed areas in the Burial Ground. All work in connection with memorials and any necessary reinstatement arising therefrom shall be done to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

15 Removal of Rubbish and Surplus Materials

Every person engaged in any work or labour in or upon any grave or memorial in the Burial Ground shall, immediately upon completion thereof, clear up and remove from the Burial Ground any rubbish or surplus materials remaining after completion. If any person, after receiving one day's notice from the Parish Council, neglects or fails to comply with this requirement, the rubbish or surplus materials will be removed by the Parish Council and any person who so neglects or fails shall, on demand, pay the Parish Council the cost incurred of the removal.

16. Touting

No person shall, within the Burial Ground, tout for or solicit orders, exhibit designs or distribute business cards.

17. No Gratuities

No person employed by the Parish Council is permitted to undertake grave maintenance work independently of the Parish Council or to receive gratuities of any kind.

18. Children and Dogs

Children under the age of 12 years shall not enter or be taken into the Burial Ground except under the charge of a responsible adult. Dogs will not be permitted within the curtilage of the Burial Ground with the exception of any type of assistance dog e.g. Guide Dogs.

19. Memorial Plantings

The Parish Council reserves the right to remove diseased trees or plants donated as a memorial.

20. Revision of Regulations

A review of Regulations and Charges shall be made annually or as deemed necessary. These regulations supersede all previously issued regulations.

Burial Ground Regulations revised March 2019