

## **Cemetery Rules Overview.**

### **Cemeteries**

Reepham Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of two cemeteries in Reepham; The Norwich Road cemetery is closed to new burials and is maintained as a wildlife garden. The second cemetery, on Whitwell Road is the one currently used for interments. The Town Council are looking for more land to create a new cemetery as space in the Whitwell Road cemetery is limited

It is the responsibility of those who hold the Exclusive Rights of Burial to ensure that memorials are kept in good order and that mowers and machinery are not obstructed by incorrectly positioned tributes and containers. With this in mind, the Council has agreed regulations to keep the burial ground in a clean and well-ordered condition.

### **Rules & Regulations**

The following is particularly important:

The decoration of grave spaces with tributes may serve to commemorate loved ones in a way which brings comfort to the bereaved but unfortunately can cause a problem for contractors working in the cemetery and can be seen as trip hazards for other people visiting the cemetery. Whitwell Road Cemetery is a lawn cemetery and it is the Town Council's duty to maintain it as such. With this in mind the Council has a number of rules relating to the size, type and position of memorials and the placement of wreaths and flowers.

### **Exclusive Rights of Burial**

The grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial may be purchased for a maximum period of 50 years in accordance with the Council's scale of charges. Exclusive Rights may be purchased by Reepham residents wishing to reserve a grave space close to a loved one or in a specific area of the cemetery.

It should be noted that the purchase of the Exclusive Rights of Burial in a grave space does not involve the purchase of the land itself: the grave remains at all times the property of the Council. The grant holder has the Exclusive Rights during the period stated in the grant (currently 50 years) to say who can be buried in the grave. The holder also has the right to erect or place a memorial on that grave subject to the rules and regulations of Reepham Town Council.

It is the responsibility of the holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial grant to notify the Council of any change of address in order that up-to-date records are maintained and so that the burial authority is able to contact holders of ERB as and when required.

### **Memorials**

No memorials may be erected without the written permission of the Council and payment of the requisite fee. All memorials must conform to the Council's regulations as detailed in the full Rules & Regulations. Raised grave surrounds are not permitted. No stones, chippings or shingle are allowed on the grave. Cremation tablets must be placed level with the ground. Unapproved materials will be removed.

### **Tributes on graves.**

To assist with the maintenance of the cemetery we ask that all tributes are placed on the base of the headstone. The planting of shrubs, trees and plants on or around the grave is NOT permitted. The Council reserves the right to remove such planting without notice or payment of compensation.

In the interests of Health and Safety, glass or other breakable materials are NOT permitted. Please note that any tribute or decoration deemed to be unsuitable will be removed and taken to the Town Council Office for safe keeping. Broken or seemingly discarded items may also be removed.

It is requested that floral tributes are removed from graves when they become unsightly. Please use the waste bins provided. Christmas wreaths should be removed at the end of February or earlier if they become unsightly. Floral tributes may be removed by the Council if they become unsightly.

### **Memorial Garden**

Please note that any floral tributes should preferably be placed in a vase which is set into the tablet. Vases or other floral tributes must remain within the tablet area.

### **Landscaping**

Should any settlement of soil take place on the grave and this is overlooked, please contact us so that re-instatement work can be arranged with the relevant funeral director.

### **Wooden Crosses**

Small temporary wooden crosses may be erected for a short period after interment either to identify a new grave or until a permanent memorial is erected. Such crosses must not be left on the grave for more than one year.

### **Cemetery Safety**

Under strict new guidelines from the Health & Safety Executive, all memorial stones will be tested for stability on a regular basis. Where ever possible, owners of memorials will be notified of any repairs necessary. Where these are not carried out, the Council reserves the right to lay the memorial stone flat to the ground or to remove it as necessary. The Council will not take steps to effect repairs.

### **Dogs**

Dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Please clear up after your dog.