

YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

This policy was adopted on 9/4/25 (Minute reference 44/2025.18.2) and will be reviewed in two year's time or sooner should legislation dictate.

Regulations governing Yarnton Cemetery

The Council strives to ensure the cemetery is a pleasant and restful space for visitors and has a duty to ensure its appearance, safety and maintenance is upheld.

The cemetery is classified as a lawn cemetery laid to grass. It includes both consecrated and non-consecrated areas.

The following rules and procedures have been adopted by the Parish Council to govern activities within the cemetery which it owns and manages.

Purchasing burial sites

1. Plans of the cemetery, showing the divisions into consecrated and non-consecrated portions are available at the office of the Clerk of the Council.
2. Only residents of Yarnton Parish, or those with a close association with the Parish may be buried in the cemetery.
3. Grave spaces and cremation plots are allocated by the Parish Council Clerk and will usually be allocated in strict numerical order.
4. The next of kin of a family member who is about to be buried in the cemetery can reserve one plot adjacent to the proposed grave if it is available.
5. A person who purchases the right of burial in any section shall not convey, assign or transfer such right without the sanction of the Parish Council having first been obtained but any person having purchased such rights shall be at liberty to inter therein a body on payment of the appropriate fee, and place a memorial thereon.
6. Every person who in the cemetery buries a body in a grave space shall pay to the Parish Council, as a charge for the use of the cemetery, fees in accordance with the Scale of Charges fixed by the Parish.
7. All fees and charges for interments shall be paid at the time of application and an Exclusive Right of Burial will not be issued by Yarnton Parish Council until the funds have cleared.
8. Proof of ownership is required by production of the grave deed before an interment can take place in an existing grave, a reserved grave space or cremation plot.

9. The Exclusive Right of Burial fee will be charged only once per grave or plot. Where the Exclusive Right of Burial for a single grave or cremation plot is purchased, interment fees will be due for each interment into that grave or plot.

There is a maximum of two interments allowed for full burials or ashes in the children's section, and for full burials in sections 1, 2 and 3 where a double plot has been prepared.

Two ashes interments are permitted in to one cremated remains plot in sections 3 and 5. Double plots for both ashes and full burials must be requested at the time of purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial in order that the correct depth is prepared, and agreement to this will be at the Council's discretion. Double full burials are not permitted in the same grave in sections 4 and 5 of the Cemetery.

If a double plot has not been previously purchased and prepared, then a second interment in the same plot will not be permitted without exhumation, the cost of which will be the responsibility of the deed holder.

Burial sites

10. No burial shall take place and no stone shall be placed or inscription added without the permission of the Parish Clerk and applied for by the grave owner.
11. All memorials, whether for graves or cremation plots should be installed by a BRAMM or NAMM registered memorial mason to ensure that they are being fitted to the current British Standard BS 8415:18 to ensure the safety of memorials being installed.

Graves

12. Each grave space in the cemetery shall be 9ft. x 5ft in the old section and 150cm X 275cm in the new section. All graves shall be turfed over by the Parish Council.
13. Headstones placed at the head of the grave must not exceed 3ft. (91cm) in height; 2ft (61cm) width; and 4 inches (10cm) in thickness and should be in-keeping with the vernacular style of headstones in the graveyard. The maximum plinth dimensions are 3ft (91cm) x 14" (35cm) deep. The style, decoration and colour of the stone should be in-keeping with the vernacular style of the cemetery.
14. Fencing, kerbstones and other surrounds delineating the burial plots are prohibited as they impede maintenance.

Cremation plots

15. Headstones placed on a cremation plot must not exceed 2 feet (60cm) in height; 1 foot, 6 inches (45cm) in width; and 4 inches (10cm) in thickness. The style, decoration and colour of the stone should be in-keeping with the vernacular style of the cemetery.

Flowers and ornaments

16. Floral tributes associated with the funeral are permitted immediately after burials and headstone erection. Thereafter, flowers and wreaths can be left at the graveside and these should be placed immediately next to the headstone, or at the head of the grave. All flowers and wreaths, whether artificial or real should be removed when dying or worn out.
17. Planting of flowers, trees or shrubs is not permitted.
18. Flower vases must be specifically designed memorial or cemetery vases; they must not be made from glass because of the danger of breakage. Memorial vases should be placed at the base of any headstone or at the head of the grave so as not to hinder the cutting of grass by Parish Council contractors.
19. Lights, balloons, windmills, chimes, bottles, cans or other objects are not permitted as they are not appropriate to the surroundings and may cause hazards in the cutting of the grass. In the case of the death of a young child, mourners may wish to leave other ornaments and mementos on the grave for a short period after burial. After that they tend to deteriorate due to weathering and must either be removed by the family or if not may be removed by the Council after consultation with the family.
20. In the case of any items not previously authorized, the Council reserves the right to clear the grave.

The Cemetery environment

21. The site is open for 24 hours every day. The site is not lit and visitors are therefore advised not to visit during the hours of darkness.
22. Dogs will not be allowed on the cemetery unless they are assistance dogs on a leash.
23. Any person who shall wilfully destroy or injure any building, fence, gate, post, railing, wall, road or approach in connection with the cemetery, or destroy, or injure any tree, shrub or plant, or wilfully destroy, injure or deface any stone or inscription or do any wilful damage, or commit any nuisance in the cemetery is liable to forfeit to the Parish Council on summary conviction, a fine in accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order, 1977, or the Criminal Damages Act, 1971.
24. The general maintenance of the cemetery is the responsibility of the Parish Council; families are responsible for maintaining their family plots including removal of dead flowers and wreaths. This does not extend to leveling graves when they settle post burial or at any point in the future.

25. The Parish Council is responsible for health and safety of the grounds and grave owners are responsible for their plots including the stability of headstones.
26. Dead flowers and other litter should be deposited in the refuse bins provided for the purpose.
27. Vehicles are not permitted in the cemetery unless for funeral arrangements or on Parish Council business.
28. The Parish Council reserves the right from time to time to make any alterations in the foregoing rules.

The Council will review these regulations annually and the Council will have discretion to add to amend or revoke regulations if required.