

HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY POLICIES – NOVEMBER 2009

Qualification

Burial spaces are only available for:

- a) Those who are resident in Harwell
- b) Those with close village connections
- c) Non-residents in extraordinary circumstances with the prior consent of the Council
- d) Burial grants giving right of burial in Harwell may be pre-purchased from the Council at the current price of a plot fee. Refunds may be authorized at the discretion of the Council, depending on the circumstances in each case.

Headstones/ Memorials

Must be:

- a) Approved by the Council, with the ground settling for at least 6 months
- b) Upright to a maximum height of 2'6", and not more than 2 feet wide and 18 inches deep at the base
- c) Restricted to 1 per grave; 2 graves can be combined with 1 headstone subject to width of 4 ft
- d) Approved before an additional inscription can be added to existing stone. If there is insufficient room on the front of a headstone, the Council will allow such inscription on the reverse.
- e) For those interred in the cemetery; however a simple inscription will be allowed if the remains are interred elsewhere (just a name, no more).
- f) Erected by (or to the same standard as) a stonemason, maintained in a safe condition, and repaired promptly if necessary.
- g) The Council has an annual memorials testing policy. If any memorial is found to be in a dangerous condition, the Council has the right to lay flat, repair, or otherwise make safe the memorial at the expense of the owner, having first made efforts to contact the owner.
- h) Kerbstones or other borders are strictly not permitted.

Soil & Damage

Any surplus soil from the levelling of graves must be removed to the designated area.

Should damage to the cemetery be incurred, the Council will charge those responsible for any damage, howsoever caused, to any area of the cemetery; this charge will be the actual cost, including labour, of making good such damage, plus any legal or other costs incurred by the Council in pursuing the perpetrator of the damage.

Untended graves

If a grave is left untended for 12 months, the Council reserves the right to remove any obstacle which could restrict maintenance in the cemetery or damage machinery, having first made efforts to contact relatives responsible for the grave.

Ashes

- a) No ashes in burial plots unless interment is to take place in a used grave space or in a space reserved for a resident of Harwell
- b) A tablet of no more than 12 inches by 12 inches is permitted to record interment of ashes; tablet to be flat with no recess.

Plaques

- a) Not permitted for any person/s other than residents or those with close connections to the village
- b) A plaque will be permitted even if ashes are not interred in the cemetery, as long as the person has close connections with the village
- c) It is permitted to reserve a space on the Wall of Remembrance by erection of a blank plaque
- d) Guidelines for plaques are available from the Clerk. All plaques must be approved by the Council.
- e) No pots or plants to be left at the Wall of Remembrance; any such items will be removed.