

Parish of St. Mawgan-in-Pydar

St Mawgan Burial Ground Regulations

The Parish Council, as the Burial Ground Authority, has determined certain principles governing the erection of memorials in the Burial Ground, which it believes, are in the best interest of parishioners, to preserve the Burial Ground as a rural place of rest, for their deceased relatives.

The Council is also mindful of its responsibility, to contain maintenance expenditure on the Burial Ground, as a charge upon the Parish.

The following regulations will therefore apply to graves in the Burial Ground:

Proposed memorials and their inscriptions must be submitted to the Clerk to the Council for approval by the Council, before erection. This applies also to additional inscriptions upon existing memorials.

To mitigate subsidence problems, the Council will not approve the erection of headstones or kerbs until at least 12 months after interment.

Memorials for graves may comprise Headstones, Kerbs or Vases, or any combination of these. The fee for each is displayed at the Burial Ground or may be obtained from the Clerk.

(i) Memorial Grave Headstones

Headstones will be vertical.

All Grave Headstones must be securely fixed onto a plinth and on a foundation, in accordance with the National Memorial Masons Code of Working Practice (NAMM,2001) working to British Standard 8415 (July, 2018) with the ground conditions prevalent at the Burial Ground to be taken into consideration.

The maintenance of the memorial is the responsibility of the owner. Should the memorial stone become unstable or dilapidated, the Parish Council will contact the next of kin to arrange repairs at owner's expense. However, if the situation requires urgent response then the Parish Council will lay the unstable stone down for safety, and reserves the right to remove the stone for storage off-site for three months only, pending collection, after which it will be disposed of, if unclaimed.

All memorial stones are to be kept in good repair and condition by the owner.

(ii) Owner and Burial Ground contractor's responsibility for Health and Safety

Using Herbicides Around Memorials

To conform with current advice, the Parish Council does not advise the use of herbicide around the bases of memorials. Apart from causing discolouration, which is unsightly, there is a possible risk to the environment and public health. There is a potential high risk of damage to the natural stonework, as well as causing instability to the stone base/foundation by removal of vegetation, such as grass and its interlocking root system. This expose and weakens the soil structure as the roots die, and voids will be left both above and under the ground. The soil will fall in to these voids, therefore loosening the stone. This would create a health and safety issue, with long term implications (National Association of Memorial Masons, Working Practice page 11.section 5.g, 2017)

<http://www.namm.org.uk/burialauthorities/information-burial-authorities/>.

Memorials in the Area for Cremated Remains must be erected and confined to polished granite tablets set flush with the ground, and measuring 18 ins wide by 12in long. They shall be oriented for reading from the North-East, i.e. from below. The memorial fee is included in the fee for the plot.

The fees for memorials are intended to provide a contribution towards the maintenance costs of the Burial Ground occasioned by these memorials, as contrasted with the simple mowing of unmarked graves, in what would otherwise be a lawn cemetery. For this reason, planting of flowers or bushes upon a grave, other than within a kerbstone, cannot be permitted.

The Parish Council prefers, that memorials for graves in the Burial Ground, are to be of stone (slate, granite or marble), but if a wooden memorial is particularly desired, this will in principle be approved, provided that it conforms to specific requirements, details of which are available from the Clerk.

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