

MARHAMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY FEES AND CONDITIONS

Parishioner

Introduction

Marhamchurch Parish Council respects the rights and needs of the individual and has prepared rules and conditions with a balance that will enable the Cemetery to be managed effectively. The Council's aim is to maintain the highest possible standards, without placing unnecessary restriction on individual choices.

To assist with this the council requests that all visitors to the Cemetery follow these rules and conditions

No dogs, except registered guide and assisting dogs are permitted in Cemetery.

Water and water bottles are available from the water butts. Please return the water bottle after use.

Grave Tributes - Flowers and wreaths may be placed on a grave in which an interment has taken place. After a period of 30 days the Council will remove them. If you wish to remove them yourself, please do so beforehand.

Visitors are requested to use the bins placed at the Parish Cemetery or Church Lych gate for garden waste/dead flowers. Please comply with the note on the bin - plastic and metal must be separated and disposed of properly.

No shrubs, plants, flowers or artificial flowers may be planted within the Cemetery or on any grave or surrounding grass. The Parish Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or dig up and remove any shrub, plant or flower planted without permission or which in their opinion becomes unsightly or overgrown. No shrubs, plants or flowers may be cut or carried away without consent.

No kerbs, ornamental fixtures, jars/vases are permitted unless built into the Headstone. Glass or china can get broken and be a potential danger to others and the Parish Council reserves the right to remove any ornamental fixtures, jars or vases.

There is a small Memorial Garden in the corner of the Cemetery. Permission to plant shrub/bulbs in the Memorial Garden must be sought beforehand from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council relies on volunteers to keep the Memorial Garden tidy and weeded. If anyone wishes to undertake any gardening in this area, please contact the Clerk or a Councillor.

The Council reserves the right to change the rules and conditions from time to time and compliance with any changes is required.

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These fees are applicable for Parishioners. A parishioner will be defined if he/she (or in the case of a minor, his/her parent) is a permanent resident in the Parish of Marhamchurch ie has been paying a Marhamchurch Council Tax at the time of death or has recently moved due to ill health. In special circumstances, if requested and at the discretion of the Parish Council, a person not meeting the above conditions may qualify for parishioner fees.

Marhamchurch Parish Council does not employ a sexton and therefore all fees are exclusive of digging. The digging of graves in Marhamchurch Cemetery is arranged through the funeral director who will ensure that all Health & Safety rules are adhered to, valid insurance cover is current and a risk assessment has been undertaken.

It is not possible to arrange for a burial to take place in an unpurchased plot (sometimes referred to as a common or public grave). It is not possible to 'spread' ashes in the Parish Cemetery.

An Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) must be purchased in respect of each plot.
The fees include an EROB, clerical and supervisory expenses and ground maintenance.

The fees below apply to an earthen grave.

1.	Interment of an adult	£200
2.	Re-Opening and second interment	£ 75
3.	Interment of a minor aged between 1 year to under 18 years	£100
4.	Interment of a still-born child or child not exceeding 12 months	nil.

The fees below apply to cremated remains

5.	Interment of an adult	£100
6.	Re-Opening and second interment	£ 40
7.	Interment of a minor aged between 1 year to under 18 years	£ 50
8.	Interment of a still-born child or child not exceeding 12 months	nil.

The fees below apply to all Headstones/Monuments/Memorials and Inscriptions

9	Erection of Headstone with First Inscription The maximum height of headstones permitted from the ground is 1m, the maximum width of headstones permitted is 0.8m.	£60.00
10.	Erection of Tablet/Flat Memorial with First Inscription In the area set aside for cremated remains, only horizontal headstones may be erected; the overall size of these must not exceed 46 x 38cm and the longer distance must be on the side, not the base - ie portrait shape. They must be the type that are raised to a height of 10cm (ie not level with the ground surface).	£60.00
11.	Additional Inscription on Headstone/Tablet	£30.00

Miscellaneous fees

12.	Certified Copy of an entry in Register	£10.00
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Conditions & Notes on Procedures

- a) A Request for Interment form must be provided in advance to the Clerk of the Council.
- b) The Clerk will respond to the applicant in writing and a plot will be allocated.
- c) No interment or memorial work will be allowed to any grave for which an unpaid charge is outstanding, unless prior agreement has been given by the Parish Council.
- d) The Notice of Interment and Certificate for Burial or Cremation / Registrar's Disposal Certificate / Coroner's Order must be provided before the interment takes place.
- e) If the Certificate for Burial or Cremation / Registrar's Disposal Certificate / Coroner's Order is not available, the Funeral Director must complete a declaration that is contained within the Births and Death Registration Act 1926 Section 1 (1).
- f) Design of Headstones/Memorials and Inscription must be approved in advance. Application to be made to the Clerk to the Council.
- g) Following interment, the undertakers will ensure that the spoil is replaced firmly to ground level (level with the surrounding area) and that the previously removed turf is placed on top.
- h) All unused spoil MUST be moved to the area allocated or removed from the Cemetery after interment.

Notes re Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB)

The person or persons who purchase a plot owns the EROB and will receive an EROB certificate from Marhamchurch Parish Council.

Ownership of an EROB does not imply ownership of the land itself or the right to carry out any particular activity on the grave plot. The ownership of the cemetery land including the grave surface remains with Marhamchurch Parish Council.

A purchased grave (also known as a private grave) is one where the EROB has been purchased for a period of 99 years from the date of the original purchase and will be excavated to a depth which will allow the eventual interment of one or two coffins or one or two cremated remain urns. Except in the case when cremation remains are interred on an existing grave, where there is to be more than one interment per plot - notice of this must be given at the initial purchase time. Cremated remains can only be interred on an existing grave after the last coffin burial has occurred.

If the registered owner has died, the EROB must be transferred. It is advisable that the family/next of kin organise the rights to be transferred to avoid potential delay in any ensuing matters - ie memorial/inscription or subsequent burial. Ownership of an EROB may be transferred, or assigned by use of the relevant form which can be obtained from the Council. The law concerning this matter can be very complex and it is strongly recommended that a solicitor be consulted to establish ownership. No excavation or erection of a memorial or memorial inscription will be permitted unless a satisfactory explanation of who is the current owner of the EROB has been provided in writing to the Parish Council.

Possession of an EROB does not give the person, in possession, the ownership of the EROB.

A grave for which an EROB applies can only be opened with the permission of the registered owner of the EROB unless the interment is to be that of the registered owner.

It is important to retain the EROB in a secure place as it is the only legal document held by the owner confirming their entitlement to the burial rights.

Notes re Memorial and the Right to Erect a Memorial/Headstone

Permission will only be granted, to erect a memorial or add an inscription, to the owner of the EROB. If the owner of the EROB has died, then the EROB must be transferred - see above.

Permission from the Parish Council is required before any memorial may be erected, renovated or removed. Permission is also necessary for additional inscriptions.

All memorials must be fixed or re-fixed in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons Recommended Code of Working Practice. Stonemasons must ensure that Health and Safety rules are adhered to, valid insurance cover is current and a risk assessment has been undertaken.

If a monument is erected without the permission of the Parish Council, it may be removed at any time without notice. All costs will be charged to the registered owner and if necessary there will be a charge on the grave space.

The Parish Council will not be responsible for the future maintenance of the memorials, neither will the Parish Council accept liability for damage to the memorial.

All registered owners must be aware that the memorials are erected at their own risk and it is their responsibility to keep the memorials in a good safe condition. The Parish council cannot accept liability for the making good of any damaged or fallen memorials. Owners may wish to insure their memorial against damage.

The Parish Council will inspect each memorial periodically to ensure its stability and the owner will be responsible for any repairs or maintenance. If any required work is not carried out within three months of the owner being notified, the Parish Council reserves the right take action to ensure there is no danger to visitors and to carry out the repairs as appropriate. All costs will be charged to registered owner and if necessary there will be a charge on the grave space.

<p>Fees, payments and conditions in accordance with Section 34 of the Burial Act 1852 and by Marhamchurch Parish Council under Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.</p>
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