

OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

PC/16/09

Management of the Cemetery

John Lister tabled a set of proposed regulations for the cemetery at the Council meeting on 5 September 2016, following discussions about the cemetery at earlier meetings. Some changes have been made to the earlier draft and the Council is now invited to approve the attached 'Guide to Otterton Cemetery'. The Council is also asked to:

- (i) Note that the term 'regulations' is no longer used. It must be recognised that the Council is not able effectively to enforce a set of regulations. Instead, it is hoped that the tone of the Guide will achieve the cooperation of cemetery users.
- (ii) It is not feasible to apply some components retrospectively, but in future those applying to buy grave space or intending to arrange an interment will be asked to agree to observe the Guide as part of the process. The Council is asked to approve this.
- (iii) Note that proposals for dealing with rubbish at the cemetery are given in a separate paper.

It should also be noted that the implementation of the Guide is likely to impact on the workload and time of the Councillor responsible for the cemetery as well as the Clerk and Chairman.

Mike Miller

September 2016

Guide to Otterton Cemetery

Users of and visitors to Otterton Cemetery are asked to observe the requirements set out below, which are intended to ensure that the cemetery is kept in a clean, tidy and appropriate condition.

The grass is cut and the cemetery is maintained by the Parish Council. Any maintenance of individual graves or benches is voluntary. If flowers and planters are kept close to the headstone, this makes the job of grass cutting easier and thereby enhances the appearance of the cemetery.

The Parish Council expects the following reasonable requirements to be observed:

1. Dogs are not to be taken into the cemetery.
2. No child under 12 years of age is allowed into the cemetery except under the care and supervision of a responsible adult.
3. All persons visiting the cemetery should keep to the path except while visiting a grave.
4. The cemetery gate should be kept closed.
5. Where possible flowers should be removed by the donor when they are past their best.
6. No trees or shrubs may be planted without the permission of the Parish Council and when planted shall be under and subject to the Council's control.
7. Mementoes and other keepsakes may be placed at gravesides for a short period of time, immediately after interment. These may be subject to removal at the discretion of the Parish Council.
8. Green waste from the planting and trimming of graves shall be removed and deposited on the compost area. Other waste should be placed in the bin provided.
9. Nothing may be removed from the cemetery without the permission of the Parish Council, and any person detected stealing items, including plants or flowers, will be reported to the police.
10. Any damage whatever done in the cemetery must be made good by the person causing it.

The Parish Council reserve the right to make further rules and to alter any of the foregoing which they may think necessary.

