BLADON PARISH COUNCIL

BLADON CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Times of opening

The cemetery will be open daily between sunrise and sunset. Visitors must at all times conduct themselves in an orderly and seemly manner.

2. Vehicles

Vehicles, including bicycles, must not enter the cemetery site. Parking is available in the small carpark directly outside.

3. Dogs

Dogs are not permitted, with the exception of guide dogs.

4. Plans

Plans and records showing the situation of graves are kept by the Clerk to Bladon Parish Council.

5. Notice of interment and fees

Notice of interment, on an appropriate form, together with the appropriate fees, must be delivered to the Parish Council Clerk at least seven days previous to any interment. Responsibility for any errors in the completion of the form rests with the applicant.

6. Disposal Certificates

The relevant certificate for burial, coroners order for burial, certificate for disposal (still-birth) or certificate for burial of ashes must be delivered to the Parish Council Clerk before any interment. No burials shall take place without the appropriate certificate for disposal.

7. Service

Fees and arrangements for the conduct of any burial service are the responsibility of the applicant.

8. Planting and Other Dressing of Graves

All dressing of graves and of cremated remains plots shall be seemly and respectful of the Cemetery as a place of quiet remembrance and reflection. For the avoidance of doubt:

a) Planting

The planting of shrubs or trees in graves is prohibited. Small flowering plants of up to 8”/20cms may however be planted if maintained. In default the Parish Council may take over their maintenance or remove them as it sees fit.

Graves may be covered with gravel provided that they are maintained so as to prevent its spreading onto the surrounding area.

Subject to this, graves must be turfed. The Parish Council reserves the right to re-turf graves which become neglected by the owners and to seek recovery of the cost thereof from them.

b) Other Dressing of Graves etc

Flowers may be placed on or at the head of a grave or cremated remains memorial stone, but must be removed by the owner once dead. Thereafter they may be removed by the Parish Council.

Wreaths shall not be allowed to remain on any grave more than four weeks following an interment, and may be removed by the Parish Council after that time if the owner fails to do so.

Artificial flowers may be placed on or at the head of a grave or memorial stone but must be removed by the owner when weathered and may thereafter be removed by the Parish Council.

Other artefacts, lights, mementos or similar items may be placed on a grave or memorial stone at the time of the interment, but must be removed within four weeks thereafter and may be removed by the Parish Council without notice after that time if the owner fails to do so.

No other artefacts, mementos or other items may be placed on any grave or memorial stone thereafter, and may be removed by the Parish Council without notice.

9. Applications for Approval of Memorials

Applications including a drawing and description giving details of size, type and material to be used, must be sent with the appropriate fee, to the Parish Council Clerk for approval before any memorial is erected, renewed, or additional inscriptions are added.

10. Erection of Memorials

The Parish Council does not maintain or restore memorials, or recommend specific monumental masons.

All memorials and vases must be erected or placed in line at the head of the graves.

Kerbstones, railings, and artificial wreathes covered with glass are prohibited.

Memorials shall be constructed of:

Portland stone, York stone or Crown stone only.

The maximum measurements of memorials on burial plots shall be:

3 ft high x 2 ft wide x 4 inches thick

The maximum measurements of plinths shall be:

2 ft 6 inches wide x 12 inches deep x 4 inches high

Copper or other approved cramps of not less than 3/8 " thickness shall be used in erection of all memorials.

The maximum measurements of memorials on cremation plots shall be:

12 inches high, base 18 inches x 18 inches

The Funeral Director of the applicant shall be responsible for arranging for the removal of any memorial necessitated by an interment and for its re-erection.

No advertisement of the monumental mason's name may be cut or attached to any memorial.

No hewing or dressing of stones shall be permitted within the cemetery. All materials shall be conveyed to the grave space by hand or in such a manner as will avoid damaging the cemetery.

11. Repair of Memorials

All memorials etc. must be kept in a good state of repair by the owners. In cases of disrepair the Parish Council shall give notice to the owners that the memorial be repaired within three months. If repairs are not executed, the Council may remove an unsafe monument and recover the expenses thereof from the owner.

12. Purchase of Grave Spaces

Effective April 1 2019, Bladon parishioners and others having village associations may purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave space for a period of 75 years but only on the occasion of intended interment. No reservations of grave spaces may be made in advance, save that of a double depth grave on the occasion of the first interment if desired.

Additionally, where that interment is of a spouse or partner, the option will be given to reserve either one double - depth grave or two adjoining single depth plots.

13. Depth of Graves

The initial burial in any plot shall be at a depth of not less than seven feet six inches, and the second burial at a depth of not less than five feet six inches. When a grave is re-opened for further burial offensive soil must not be removed and a minimum of six inches must be left between the coffins.

14. Vaults or Bricked Graves

No vaults or brick graves will be permitted in the cemetery.

15. Opening of Graves

No grave in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be opened without the production of the Deed of Grant or the written consent of the owner or his or her legal representative.

16. Transfers

No transfer of the ownership of an Exclusive Right of Burial, otherwise than by death or inheritance shall be made without the prior consent in writing of the Parish Council.

17. Burial of Cremated Remains

The burial of cremated remains in any grave for which the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been purchased is not permitted.

Caskets containing cremated human remains may be buried in purchased graves, with the consent of the owner of the burial rights and on receipt of a completed notice of interment form, together with the appropriate fee.

Where the purchased grave is of sufficient depth, and will be required at a further date for the burial of a second coffin, the casket of ashes must be buried in the wall of the grave, so as to permit the free passage of any coffin.

The burial of cremated remains may also take place in cremated remains plots.

18. Exhumation

The removal of bodies or cremated remains, for whatever purposes, once buried requires an Exhumation Licence from the Home Office

19. Adjacent Burials

From time to time it may be necessary to cover a grave with soil excavated for a burial in an adjacent plot. Should this occur, care will be taken to protect the existing grave, and the ground will be restored.

20. Amendment to the Rules and Regulations

These rules and regulations are made by Bladon Parish Council under paragraph 3(1) of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, for the proper management, regulation, and control of the Bladon cemetery. The Council reserves the right to make alterations to the foregoing rules consistent with the Burial Acts 1852 to 1906, and of the Local Government Act 1972 and any subsequent orders or legislation related thereto.

21. Currency of Rules and Regulations

For the avoidance of doubt, these Rules and Regulations, adopted by Bladon Parish Council on 22 November 2018 and revised on 25th April 2019 replace all previous editions of Bladon Parish Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

BLADON PARISH COUNCIL

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