



WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
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Somerset TA20 4HU

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WINSHAM CEMETERY
(Off Pooles Lane, Winsham, Chard, Somerset)

Notice to Funeral Directors: These notes and regulations are intended for the guidance of you, and your client. Winsham Parish Council ask that a copy is passed on to your client.

They can also be viewed on the Council's Web Site:

www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk

Printed copies are available from the Parish Clerk

E-mail: winshampc@hotmail.co.uk

Winsham Parish Council, who have a statutory responsibility for the maintenance of Winsham Cemetery, seek a situation whereby the natural beauty and calm of the Cemetery can be maintained, and make it easy to visit at any time.

Part of an ongoing requirement is the cutting of cemetery grass, establishment and maintenance of hedges and fencing and the development of access and facilities. This has to be done at reasonable cost, within the provision of the parish precept.

In order to achieve this, the following regulations and guidance has been approved by the Parish Council. These relate, for the most part, to the responsibilities of Funeral Directors in the manner in which graves are to be prepared and completed, but also draw attention to a few general requirements that should be noted by mourners and people maintaining the grave space in the years that follow interment.

Although maintenance of the grave space or a memorial is not the responsibility of the parish council, the management of the ground space during the settlement period that follows interment is essential during the eighteen months or so following burial. This involves levelling and restoration of the grass. The cost of this is included within the interment fee.

Mourners are asked to pay particular attention to regulation 11. It is regretted that restrictions are placed on the placing of flowers, but it is necessary in order to facilitate grass cutting and other maintenance tasks, which are essential to the good order and appearance of the cemetery.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Winsham Parish Council reserve the right to amend these regulations, without notice. They also reserve the right to take whatever action the Council considers necessary to preserve the cemetery facility, safety or appearance, without notice.

1. Interments

A grave plot measures 2.74 metres by 1.2 metres. It may be a “purchased” grave plot, or a “common” grave plot, depending on whether exclusive rights of burial have been granted.

2. Cremated Remains

Cremated remains can only be interred in a purchased grave which may either be one of the special plots (45.7 cm by 45.7 cm), reserved for the purpose, or a family grave when exclusive rights have already been granted for a previous interment. Special plots can be double depth.

3. Winsham Parish Council does not carry out the digging of graves. This is usually the responsibility of the Funeral Director who should contact Mr P Parfitt; the Parish Council’s gravedigger on 01460 65715 or mobile 07980 532995. The grave itself must not exceed 2.13 metres by 0.91 metres, leaving a space for any Memorial Stone at the head of the grave (See regulation 8). The depth of the grave should normally allow for two burials.

4. The plot to be used will be clearly marked for the Undertaker by Winsham Parish Council, and no other plot may be used.

5. After burial, in order to allow for settlement, the grave is to be filled so that at least thirty inches of soil extends above the surrounding ground level, over the whole of the dug grave area. As part of the thirty inches of soil, the topsoil and turf removed at the start of the digging of the grave should be placed on the top of the grave area.

6. Winsham Parish Council does not undertake the tending of individual graves after the initial settlement period.

7. Where a memorial has been removed or where no Memorial exists, the Council reserves the right to level the grass over the grave.

8. Memorials

All Gravestones, Monuments or other memorials of any description are to be placed on the area at the head of the plot, not used for the grave itself. The Council must approve all Memorials and Inscriptions. A fee is payable at time of application for the Memorial. Any subsequent additions or changes to an Inscription must be approved by the Council, and a fee is payable at the time of application.

The maintenance of a memorial of any type is not the responsibility of Winsham Parish Council. Should a memorial be considered by the Parish Council to have become dangerous in terms of representing a risk to cemetery visitors or passers-by, it has the right to carry out any steps considered necessary to make it safe, including its removal. Thirty days' notice of removal of a memorial will be given by a notice that can be seen on the Parish Notice board, located outside the Jubilee Hall, and on the Parish Web Site. The Parish Council will also attempt to notify interested parties known to them, although it has no obligation to do so.

After thirty years from interment, the Parish Council is not obliged to give notice of any such action.

Monuments, including stone vases and bird baths, which are not fixed need to be agreed by the Parish Council before being placed at the grave. The same safety regulations and placement regulations apply as with any other fixed monument. The Parish Council suggest that any monument that is not fixed is purchased from a specialist supplier. Any monument deemed unsafe by the Parish Council will be removed.

9. Size Restrictions

Memorials on burial graves may not exceed 76.2 cm in height, and the base measurement may not exceed 45.7 cm by 91.4 cm. Memorials for cremated remains may not exceed 45 cm in height and the base measurement may not exceed 45 cm x 45 cm.

10. Memorials Not Permitted

1. Kerbstones.
2. Memorials made of wood
3. Memorials incorporating glass domes.

11. Plantings, Floral Tributes and flowers on graves

Prior to the final levelling of the grave area and grass replacement, floral tributes can be placed on the grave area. Planting of flowers and shrubs, and trees in the area cannot be permitted. After the grassing over of the plot, the placing or planting of flowers must be restricted to the area at the head of the plot (45.7 cm x 91.4 cm) in any space not covered by the headstone.

Any floral decorations placed on a grave should be removed after six weeks by the individuals that are maintaining the grave. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove and dispose of any flowers, plants, floral tributes, or wreaths which have deteriorated or become unsightly if the owner fails to do so. Glass containers are strictly prohibited.

In addition to this the Parish Council are looking to reduce the use of plastic or artificial items as these impact on the wildlife and environment. This includes (but is not limited to) the use of artificial flowers and we reserve the right to remove any items that are considered to be of risk or deemed excessive, inappropriate or of poor condition.

WINSHAM CEMETERY

Schedule of Charges

With effect from 1st April 2023

Burial	Resident	Non-Resident
Purchase of Grave Space (Age 16 years or under)	No Charge	£900
Purchase of Grave Space (Age over 16 years)	£330	£900
Interment Fee (Age 16 years or under)	No Charge	£750
Interment Fee (Age over 16 years)	£285	£780
Cremation		
Purchase of Ashes Burial Space (Age 16 years or under)	No Charge	£600
Interment of Cremated remains (Age 16 years or under)	No Charge	£600
Purchase of Ashes Burial Space (Age over 16)	£220	£600
Interment of Cremated remains (Age over 16 years)	£220	£600
Memorials		
Memorial approval Fee - Including revisions	£85	£85
Removal or replacement of memorial	£85	£85

A resident is defined as a person whose main residence was within the Parish of Winsham at the date of death.

Non-Resident rates apply to all other situations with the following exceptions:

- The resident moved to receive specialist care not available in Winsham within 3 years of date of death. (Anyone exceeding the 3-year period should contact the clerk if they feel there are exceptional circumstance that they would like to be considered by the Councillors).
- The deceased was a serving member of the armed forces at the time of death, whose parents/legal guardians still reside in Winsham Parish, with no upper time limit applied.