

Measham Parish Council Cemetery Information

Burial Rights

The purchase of a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial within a grave plot not only conveys certain rights upon the owner, but also imposes a number of responsibilities.

Measham Parish Council grant Exclusive Right of Burial for a total period of 100 years.

Ownership of Exclusive Right of Burial 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 Measham Parish Council.

The person registered with the council as the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial during the period they have been granted will have the sole right to decide who may be interred within the grave.

The Exclusive Right of Burial also includes the right to have a memorial of a design and method of construction approved by the Council, installed on the grave plot. Such applications can only be made by the Exclusive Right holder.

It is important to retain the Exclusive Right Deed in a secure place, as it is the only legal document held by the owner confirming their entitlement to the burial and memorial rights. It is also important to notify The Parish Council of any change of address.

Extent to Purchaser's Rights

Although Exclusive Right of Burial is granted for a period of 100 years, this does not imply any intention to part or resell the grave or reuse it in any way that may cause disturbance to human remains or to remove any memorial except for reasons of safety.

Exclusive Right of Burial may be purchased for up to two normal interments within the grave plot. However, even when the grave plot is full with respect to normal burials, it may still be utilised for the interment of cremated remains thereafter.

Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial

Should the Exclusive Right of Burial holder be deceased a transfer to the next of kin can be made on production of a Grant of Probate or Grant of Letters of Administration. In the absence of either of these documents' ownership can be transferred to entitled person/s by way of a statutory Declaration. Forms are obtainable from the Parish Office. There is a small administration charge for this.

It is important to note that transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial does not alter the expiry date of the original 100-year term.

Burials

Measham Parish Council do not offer grave excavation services for either new graves or re-opens. However grave preparation for cremated remains will still be offered.

Funeral directors are asked to source suitable contractors to carry out this work on their behalf and to ensure that they have in place all necessary Insurance documents, risk assessments and that correct health and safety procedures are followed at all times. Public Liability Insurance must be produced annually by all grave diggers employed by funeral directors.

Unless pre purchased or graves to be re-opened, burials will take place 'next in line' in the Free Church section, Roman Catholic section or the Cremated Remains section. Requests for burials not in line i.e to be in front of family will be considered on request at a 50% increase in fee. No burials unless already purchased will be allowed in the consecrated section of the cemetery.

During winter months 1st November until 1st March no internments will be allowed after 2.30pm.

The Funeral Director shall be requested to check the grave prior to burial to ensure size, location and depth are correct.

Disposal certificates must be produced to the parish office prior to any burial taking place.

Grave Maintenance

Burial areas within the cemetery have been laid out in what is known as the 'Lawn' system. Using this system, the Council is able to gain easy access to all graves within the burial section, thus allowing more effective maintenance of grave surfaces at lower cost, and also simplifying the excavation of graves.

In the period following a burial the grave surface will be subject to sinkage due to soil settlement. The initial settlement lasts for 6 to 12 months, during which time the surface will be topped-up by cemetery staff as required.

Once the initial settlement has taken place, the surface will be grassed over with seed or turf. Over future years the grave will continue to settle and may require re-surfacing from time to time.

Memorials

ONLY the Exclusive Rights holder is entitled to apply for permission to have one permanent headstone memorial erected upon a grave plot or an additional inscription on an existing memorial. (An additional stone for ashes that have been interred into existing graves can also be requested).

No works are permitted to be carried out on any grave space except by:

A monumental mason who is accredited to the British Registration of Approved Monumental Masons Scheme (BRAMM) or an equivalent scheme or:

By staff of Measham Parish Council, such works may include any works associated with memorial safety inspections and the subsequent temporary making safe of any memorial.)

Basic cleaning/washing down and non-specialist cleaning of a memorial may be undertaken by any person. Parish Council staff are not responsible for cleaning or general maintenance of memorials.

Application Process

An application for a memorial or additional inscription must be completed fully, signed by the grave owner and include a detailed plan of the proposed memorial including the dimensions and details of the proposed fixing method. All memorials including re-fixed are to be installed in line with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) approved standard and code of safe working practice.

Memorials other than for cremation plots will only be considered following a minimum period of six months from burial; it is however recommended that a 12-month settlement period should be observed to minimise memorials 'leaning' due to settlement.

Standard Memorials must not exceed 3'5 wide and 5' high including the base and memorials in Cremated Remains Section are restricted to 24' high and 24' wide including the base.

In design and choice of memorials, kerb stones and grave edgings are not permitted and consideration of public safety and the prevention of offence to cemetery visitors must be given. Photographs are permitted to form part of the memorial stone.

Usually a memorial application will be completed and submitted on behalf of the Exclusive Right holder by the chosen memorial mason or stone craftsman contracted by the owner to carry out the work.

Applications will be considered for a second memorial in the form of a wedge style plaque to be placed directly in front of an existing stone when ashes are interred into usual graves and room is not available on the existing memorial to commemorate the additional internments. Maximum size is W1.6 x L1.6 x D 4"-2".

Once an application has been approved by the parish council, the stone mason is at liberty to proceed with installation of the memorial but must first advise cemetery staff when they plan to be onsite.

Any memorials placed out of line or incorrectly due to stone mason error will be required to be re-fixed at no cost to the parish council or grave owner.

Guarantee

All memorials installed must be subject to a Guarantee of Conformity granted by the mason who installed the memorial. Such guarantee is given to confirm that the memorial has been fixed to the best standard set by NAMM and should last for a minimum of 30 years. If during the life of the memorial it becomes loose or unstable the mason should under the terms of the said guarantee, re-fix the memorial to the original standard at no cost to the grave owner or council.

The upkeep and maintenance of any memorial within the cemetery remains the responsibility of the person who holds the Exclusive Right to that grave.

Memorial Safety Testing

It is strongly recommended that the Exclusive Right holder should have the stability and condition of the memorial checked at least annually. Failure to do so may result in the Exclusive Right holder being held liable for any injury or death caused to a third party if the injury or death is shown to be due to the condition of the memorial or the manner in which it was installed.

All memorials will be subject to periodic testing by suitably trained staff. 1 months' notice will be given by way of advertising the inspection on the Cemetery noticeboard and parish council website. Inspections are carried out every 5 years as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive. Any memorials failing a safety test will be made safe by parish council staff. This may include being sunk into the ground vertically, laid flat, cordoned off or stake and banded. The Council will attempt to contact the grave owner at their last known address to inform them of the reason for taking such action. The Exclusive Right holder is responsible to arrange and authorise suitable repairs to be undertaken by an approved BRAMM or equivalent accredited mason. The Council is duty bound to take such action to reduce the risk to visitors. Regular memorial inspections arranged by the Exclusive Right holder themselves will avoid the need for such action.

Should no remaining family members be contactable, or the Grant of Exclusive Right be expired, the memorial will be either laid down or sunk into the ground in a safe manner.

Damage to Memorials

Measham Parish Council will not be held responsible for any damage caused to a grave or memorial except where it can be proved that the damage is the result of grave digging or maintenance operations.

Memorial Insurance

It is recommended that all memorials should be insured against theft, loss, or damage. Most monumental masons can advise on such insurance cover.

Unauthorised Memorials

The Parish Council subject to the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 have the right to remove without notice any unauthorised items placed on or around any grave or any unauthorised memorial. Items will be kept for up to 1 month for collection.

Internments in Adjoining Grave

Exclusive Right holders must be aware that on occasion when adjacent graves are excavated for either first or second internment that a large quantity of soil will be placed on existing adjoining graves. Where this happens grave diggers will ensure that the grave and any headstone are cleaned up as soon as possible after so as to minimise disruption. **This procedure is usual practice and unavoidable.**

Decorations

Wreaths, trees and ornaments placed at Christmas will be removed by staff by February 1st.

Other wreaths placed i.e. for Father's Day and Mothers Day etc will be removed after one month.

The burial ground is classed as a lawn cemetery, Exclusive Right Purchasers sign to acknowledge this and as such trinkets, toys, ornaments and fencing, planting of shrubs etc are not permitted.

Fees

Fees shall be reviewed on an annual basis. Fees will be trebled for persons living outside the Parish, unless they have had to move away for nursing or elderly care.

Car Parking

Visitors in vehicles must park on Bosworth Road and the access to the cemetery must be kept clear at all times. Only Blue Badge holders are permitted to drive into the cemetery and under no circumstances can this be allowed at the time of an interment taking place.

General

All visitors to the cemetery are expected to act with respect and dignity; unsociable behaviour will not be tolerated.

Children must be accompanied at all times and supervised whilst visiting the cemetery.

Smoking is not permitted under any circumstances in any areas of the cemetery.

Dogs are strictly not permitted within the cemetery unless registered assistance dogs.

Information for Grave Owners

This information will be given to each Exclusive Right purchaser and displayed on the Measham Parish Council website and Cemetery notice board.

Reviewed and approved May 2022