

## Farndon Parish Council Burial Ground Regulations

1. The Farndon Burial Ground is subject to the control of Farndon Parish Council, but is nevertheless a consecrated a Burial Ground within the meaning of the term as used by the Church of England.
2. The Parish Council has full and sole authority to approve memorials providing they meet the following criteria.
3. Memorial must be constructed and installed by a memorial mason in accordance with the recommended Code of Working Practice issued by the National Association of Memorial Masons (**the NAMM code**). The memorial must also comply with *British Standards BS8415*.
4. No memorial, including any type of gravestone shall be erected or placed in the churchyard until the approval of the Parish Council has been obtained in writing.
5. Applicants are advised not to accept any estimate or otherwise enter into a contract with any funeral director or stonemason until such a written approval has been obtained.
6. The fact that there is a similar memorial – which does not comply with these Regulations – in the Burial Ground, does not mean that the new memorial will be approved by the Parish Council.
7. A memorial must relate to the person or persons who are buried or whose cremated remains are interred in the grave. The erection of a memorial to a person buried or interred elsewhere is not permitted.
8. **Memorial Types and Dimensions:** The Parish Council will only approve applications which meet the criteria set out in any of the following five categories of permitted memorials:
  - 8.1 A simple vertical memorial not exceeding 1200mm (4ft) high, measured from the surface of the ground, 900mm (3ft) wide and 150mm (6 ins) thick with a plinth supporting the memorial not exceeding 300mm (12 ins) from front to back and projecting not more than 50mm (2 ins) beyond that back and not more than 75mm (3 ins) beyond the sides of the memorial.

*The memorial and plinth will normally be placed on a concrete foundation base. The top surface of this foundation base must be set below ground level. The concrete foundation base should be placed on virgin ground – undisturbed by the digging-out of the grave – but this may be practicable only when a new row is started (otherwise the memorials will be out of line).*

*It is preferred that should the plinth incorporate a vase or other flower container; it will be sunk into its forward projection.*

- 8.2 A simple vertical memorial not exceeding 1200mm (4ft) high, measured from the surface of the ground, 900mm (3ft) wide and 150mm (6 ins) set directly into the ground without a plinth, provided that the method of securing the memorial is in accordance with the NAMM Code and the British Standard.

8.3 A simple wooden cross not exceeding 450mm (1ft 6 ins) in height (measured from the ground surface) and 300mm (1ft) in width.

8.4 To mark or record the interment of cremated remains, a simple memorial stone placed horizontally in the ground, sunk so that its surface does not impede a mower passing over it. Such a memorial must not exceed 533mm x 533mm (21 ins x 21 ins).

## **9. Epitaphs and Inscriptions**

9.1 Inscriptions must receive the prior written approval of the Parish Council.

9.2 Additions may be made to inscriptions at a later date following subsequent interments in the same grave or for other good reason. Any such addition or alteration to an inscription must be separately approved by the Parish Council in writing. Similarly, a replacement memorial will need the written approval of the Parish Council.

9.3 The mason's name or mason's mark should be inscribed on the side or reverse of memorial stones, near the foot or on the plinth in letters no larger than 50mm (2 inches) in height, such letters to be unleaded and unpainted. No advertisement or trademark (other than as above) should be inscribed on a memorial.

9.4 For all inscriptions simple lettering of good design is preferred. Cut letters may be picked out in paint or gilding if appropriate to the design of the monument as a whole. Leaded letters are not permitted on new memorials or existing memorials not previously leaded.

## **10. Method of Fixing Memorials**

10.1 Due regard must be paid to the nature of the ground and the problem of potential settlement. Memorials including the plinth and base must be placed on undisturbed ground. Memorials with or without a plinth may rest upon a foundation base or be set in concrete which does not rise above ground level, does not impede a mower or reveal itself in any unsightly way. Memorials inserted directly into the ground must be of an adequate depth below ground level and secured to ensure stability in accordance with the NAMM Code and the British Standard.

10.2 Memorials must be constructed and installed with proper dowelling and anchored to the ground in accordance with the NAMM Code and the British Standard.

## **11. Materials for Memorials.**

11.1 Memorials must be made of natural stone which is harmonious with its surroundings and the setting of the Burial Ground. Native stones traditionally used in local buildings and memorials, or stones similar to them in colour or texture are preferred. Memorials of concrete, pottery, wood, plastic, metal or fibreglass materials are not permitted. Reconstructed or reconstituted stone will be acceptable provided it meets British Standard BS6457 (1984). A wooden cross is permitted.

## **12. Photographs**

12.1 Photographs or inscribed portraits or other representation of the deceased as part of a memorial, will not be allowed, nor the affixing of porcelain or plastic portraits to a memorial.

12.2 No other inscribed or otherwise represented emblem or picture will be permitted unless it is in keeping with the respectful nature of the Burial Ground.

### **13. Treatment of Gravestones and Maintenance**

**The burial ground is a ‘grassed over’ type, maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of the community and as such, for the purpose of ease of maintenance, the following points should be adhered to:**

13.1 Kerbs, railings, posts or chains and similar items to enclose a grave are not permitted.

13.2 The use of chippings or similar materials to cover the surface of a grave is not permitted.

13.3 Spring and autumn bulbs may be planted in the soil of any grave in a position adjacent to the headstone – but not trees, shrubs or other plants. *The flowers etc. of such bulbs are liable to be mown in the ordinary course of Burial Ground maintenance.*

13.4 The surface of the grave must be levelled and any mound removed within 6 months of a burial having taken place. In preparation for mowing, the grave surface should be turfed or seeded for grass after a period of 12 months.

13.5 Wreaths and floral tributes may be laid upon a grave and cut flowers arranged in metal or stone vases placed on the memorial plinth. If there is no plinth, a vase may be sunk into the ground below ground level so as not to impede a mower when not containing flowers.

13.6 Silk and other good quality artificial flowers are permitted; plastic flowers are not.

*Persons who carry out the day-to-day upkeep of the Burial Ground may remove wreaths, cut flowers, etc., when they appear to be withered or dead. Faded or decaying artificial flowers may be removed.*

13.7 Soil dug from a new or existing grave and parts of existing memorials removed prior to a further burial in a grave must not be placed on other graves, on pathways or otherwise in a manner which obstructs access to other graves.

### **14. Cremated Remains**

Cremated remains must not be scattered on the surface of the ground but must be interred into the earth, preferably with a casket or other container. Arrangements for interment must always be made in consultation with the Parish Clerk.

### **15. Removal of Memorials**

At least 10 working days prior written notice must be given to the Parish Clerk before a memorial is removed, whether for a further inscription or for replacement.

### **16. Memorials for which Special Permission must be obtained**

16.1 Applications for memorials, the design or dimension of which fall outside the conditions outlined above, must be made in writing to the Parish Council.

16.2 Individually designed memorials will be subject to specific permission from the Parish

Council. By granting any such permission, the Parish Council will not be deemed to have created a precedent.

### **17. Deviation from Regulations**

17.1 It should be noted that should the Parish Council have its attention drawn to any deviation from these regulations, or from any permission granted as covered by these regulations, the Parish Council reserves the right to require the said deviation to be corrected forthwith.

17.2 The Parish Council will accede to no limit of time in enforcing any deviation from the said regulations.