

Amble Town Council

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GUIDE TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING CEMETERIES CONTROLLED BY THE COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

These notes are for the guidance of the general public and not intended to be used as a guide for Monumental Masons or Sculptors.

PURCHASED GRAVE

At the time of the first burial a member of the deceased's family or the appointed person buys what is known as the 'Exclusive Right of Burial' by way of a deed. This conveys to the Deedholder or his successor for a period not exceeding 50 years, the title to the grave but it does not confer property title to the grave or land in question. The Deedholder can renew the Exclusive Right of Burial for a further period *on payment of a fee*.

*This is a very important document as it is **your only proof** that you have the right to request permission to erect a memorial or prove your entitlement to have further interments in that grave space. If the time limit has not ended, the deed can, on payment of a fee, be transferred to a person of your choice or another legally identified family member to enable these rights to continue.*

MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS AND HEADSTONES

There are strict rules regarding the erection of memorials and therefore, if it is decided to erect a memorial, you should approach a Monumental Mason or Sculptor or your Funeral Director who will give advice on the choice of a suitable memorial that will meet your needs both in design and cost. Monuments, vases or crosses must not be placed on a grave unless the Exclusive Right of Burial has first been purchased. To allow the ground to settle, erection of memorials on full body interments will not be permitted until 6 calendar months after the interment has taken place. In the cremated section, memorials may be erected 1 calendar month after the interment has taken place at the discretion of the registered Monumental Mason. Monumental Masons guarantee the workmanship of the memorial and can advise on insurance of it for a set period, usually 5 years, within their charges. Please remember to renew this insurance. *(None of these are permitted in the Natural Burial Area)*

No memorial will be admitted to the Cemetery except on condition that *such memorial be erected by a Memorial Mason who is registered with the Council*; the memorial remains at the owner's sole risk; and the Council shall not be held responsible for any damage which may occur to it.

There are certain conditions regarding the dressings and maintenance of graves that you need to be aware of:

Kerbstones/Railings

Iron, concrete, stone, wood or plastic railings or other types of edging are not allowed.

Glass Globes/Vases

Glass globes or vases are not allowed on graves due to safety considerations.

Vases

Vases, not exceeding 12" x 12" (300mm) with one base, either with or without a suitable inscription, are allowed. Council permission must be obtained first; a fee will be charged.

(These are not permitted in the Natural Burial Area)

Crosses and Small Monuments

Stone crosses are allowed in the form of a headstone, but not those made of plastic, wood or metal. Small monuments, as an alternative to a full size memorial, are allowed. Permission must first be obtained from the Council and a fee will be charged.

(These are not permitted in the Natural Burial Area)

Temporary Markers

A small wooden temporary marker is allowed to mark a new grave for a maximum of 9 months after which it must be removed.

(These are not permitted in the Natural Burial Area)

Maintenance

All memorials erected within the Cemetery shall be kept in good repair by and at the expense of the owner. The Council reserve the right to temporarily repair, make safe and remove any memorial, which is allowed to fall into disrepair, become unsightly or dangerous, and to recharge the cost to the owner or levy a charge on the grave space against future usage.

Floral Tributes

Wreaths and floral tributes are normally removed no sooner than 7 days after the burial and may be left for up to 21 days, depending on the time of the year and their rate of deterioration.

Turfing of Graves

All graves, *except in the Natural Burial Area*, will be turfed by the Council as soon as practicable after the burial, weather and ground conditions permit. Alternatively, the Council will allow the planting of **small bedding plants only up to a maximum of 9ins/ 23cms in front** of a memorial. Care of these plants remain the responsibility of the grave owner. The Council cannot be held responsible for damages to bedding plants should they be planted before the grave has settled and subsequently levelled off- this is usually about 6 months after the burial date. Should the grave owner neglect to maintain the bedding plants and the grave becomes unkempt the Council will take steps to maintain the area in the most practical, economical manner available.

The Lawn Sections of the cemetery are provided for the benefit of everyone and because of this and the needs for grounds maintenance, **no monument, gravestone, memorial tablet, plaque, kerb, post, fence, railings, chippings, decorations, mementoes, photographs, pictures, soft toys, ballons or the like shall be placed or erected upon or about the sown area of any grave. If placed they will be removed, stored for 14 days then discarded.**

Planting of shrubs is undertaken in the Natural Burial Area by the Council soon after interment.

BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS

The burial of Cremated Remains (Ashes) may be made in smaller size plots. As these plots are considerably smaller than a full-size grave, memorials need to be of a smaller size. There is no planting area allocated in front of the memorial.

FURTHER BURIALS

Reopening for interment of cremated remains will be allowed in a grave provided there is space.

A maximum of 3 such re-openings may be granted. Each interment will incur a fee.

GENERAL

Part of the process of creating a grave will result in soil temporarily being placed on a neighbouring grave until the interment has been carried out, as the soil needs to be located as close to the excavation as possible. We do appreciate that this can be distressing for people visiting a family grave and all efforts will be made to protect the grave in question with boards and to restore it to its proper condition as soon as possible.

All cemeteries under the control of Amble Town Council are managed according to The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.

These are an abridged version of the Cemetery rules and regulations.
A full version is available from the Council Office upon request.

The Committee reserve the right to change or amend these rules and regulations without prior notice.

Date:	April 2024	Approving:	Full Council
Policy effective:	Immediate	Date for next review:	May 2026