

REGULATIONS

CHAIN HILL CEMETERY, WANTAGE

1st JANUARY 2023

REGULATIONS

Made by the Wantage Town Council under Section 3 of the Local Authorities' Cemetery Order, 1977

INTERPRETATION

1. In the construction of these Regulations the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereinafter respectively assigned to them, that is to say:-

"Wantage Cemetery" means the Cemetery at Chain Hill, established under the Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879, and administered by the Council under the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order, 1977, and includes such additions and extensions as may from time to time be made.

"The Council" means the Town Council of Wantage.

"Grave" means a burial place formed in the ground by excavation.

"Private Grave" means a grave in which the exclusive right of burial has been granted by the Council.

"Garden of Remembrance" means the area marked and enclosed by a brick surround to the north west of the vehicle entrance gate.

"Common Grave" means a grave other than a private grave.

2. The marginal notes shall not form part of these Regulations.

ADMISSION TO CEMETERY

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| <i>Hours</i> | 3. The Cemetery shall be open to the public on weekdays from 9 a.m. and on Sundays and public holidays from 10 a.m., and shall close at sunset or at 9 p.m. whichever is the earlier. |
| <i>Children</i> | 4. No child under the age of 9 years shall be allowed in the Cemetery except under the care of a responsible person. |
| <i>Exclusion of Persons</i> | 5. The Council will exclude from the Cemetery at any time any person who, in their opinion, acts in a noisy, disorderly or unseemly manner. |
| <i>Dogs</i> | 6. Dogs shall not be allowed in the Cemetery except for guide dogs. |

INTERMENTS

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| <i>Permitted Hours</i> | 7. Interments shall be allowed between 9 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays and between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on |
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Saturdays. (The Council reserves the right to modify this Regulation where circumstances render such a course desirable).

<i>Notice to be given</i>	8. Notice of Interments shall be given in the Council's prescribed form at the office of the Clerk of the Council, Council Offices, Portway, Wantage, between 9.30 p.m. and 12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday at least forty-eight hours preceding the proposed interment (exclusive of Saturdays, Sunday or other public holidays). The Council reserves the right to modify this Regulation where circumstances render such a course desirable.
<i>Fees must be paid</i>	9. All charges and fees shall be paid when the Notice of Interment is given.
<i>Arrangements with Minister</i>	10. The person having charge of the funeral shall make all arrangements with the officiating clergyman or minister. The Council undertake no responsibility in this matter.
<i>Registrar's certificate and Coroner's Order</i>	11. The Registrar's certificate for disposal, or the Coroner's order when an inquest has been held, shall be produced to the Council Offices prior to the time of the interment.
<i>Certificate of Burial</i>	12. After interment a certificate of burial may be obtained from the Clerk on payment of the prescribed fee.
<i>Maintenance of Grave Spaces</i>	13. Whenever an interment has taken place the grave shall forthwith be filled with earth (surplus soil to be removed from the Cemetery by the undertaker), and after the lapse of such a period as may reasonably suffice for the natural subsidence of the earth with which the grave has been filled, the surface of the grave shall be levelled with top soil and covered with turf. The Council reserve the right to sow grass seed on graves.

EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

<i>Provision for purchase</i>	<p>14. The exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in any grave space required for immediate use may be purchased for an inhabitant of the Parish of Wantage, or a non-inhabitant where special approval has been given by the Clerk, the Mayor and the Chair of the relevant committee, subject to the payment of the fees for the time being prescribed by the Council. A Deed of Grant will be issued.</p> <p>15. Whilst reservations are not generally permitted, the holder of the exclusive right of burial (ERB) can, upon application to the Clerk, the Mayor and the Chair of the relevant committee, reserve a plot adjacent or near to the grave space. The location of the reserved plot will be subject to availability and at the discretion of the Clerk. The fee for reserving a grave space will be equivalent to the fee for exclusive right</p>
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of burial as stipulated on the current table of fees and charges. Reservations would be valid for a period of 10 years at which time it would be the responsibility of the ERB holder to renew the reservation if so desired: a renewal fee would be payable for this.

*Transfers
of owner-
ship*

16. On the transfer of the exclusive right of burial in a grave (owing to death or otherwise) such transfer shall be registered and the Deed of Grant produced for endorsement before the grave is re-opened or any memorial is erected, altered or removed. Before any transfer is accepted, sufficient evidence of the title of the transferee must be submitted to the Clerk.

*Exercise
of
right*

17. The right of burial in a private grave shall be exercisable in respect of any interment, subject to the provisions of these Regulations or of other Regulations from time to time in force, and to the following conditions:-

(a) When notice of interment is given to the Clerk pursuant to Regulation 8, the Deed of Grant of the exclusive right of burial shall be produced.

(b) If the notice of interment is signed by a person other than the registered owner of the right of burial, the applicant shall (i) produce the written authority of the registered owner for the interment to take place, or (ii) if such registered owner is deceased, produce evidence satisfactory to the Clerk of the death and (except in the case of the burial of the registered owner) execute an instrument, which shall be supplied by the Clerk, indemnifying the Council against any claims which may be made against the Council or other officers in respect of the opening of the grave.

(c) Where the Deed of Grant has been lost or mislaid or where the written consent of the registered owner cannot conveniently be obtained, the burial shall be allowed to proceed only if evidence satisfactory to the Clerk is produced and the applicant executes an instrument of indemnity as aforesaid.

BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

18. Cremated remains shall be buried in an unmarked plot 15 cm x 15 cm (6 inches x 6 inches) at a depth of 30 cm – 45 cm (12 inches – 18 inches) below ground. The burial will not be subject to exclusive rights.

PARTICULARS AS TO GRAVES AND EARTH PLOTS SUBJECT TO EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

*Measure-
ments*

19. Each grave space shall have a width of 120 cm (4 feet) and a length of 270 cm (9 feet) of which the first 22.5 cm (9 inches) at each end shall form the earth plots and the remaining 225 cm (7 feet 6 inches) shall be reserved for

the grave.

20. Each space for cremated remains shall be 76 cm (2 feet 6 inches) long and 76cm (2 feet 6 inches wide).

*Flowers,
shrubs
etc..*

21. No shrubs, plants or flowers may be planted over any grave.

Graves

22. Graves shall be allocated by the Council.

*Depth
of Graves*

23a. No interment shall take place in any such grave without a covering of earth 90 cm (three feet) in thickness, at the least, measuring from the surface of the coffin to the ordinary level of the ground.

23b. A layer of earth 15 cm (six inches) in thickness, at the least, shall be left between each coffin in the same earthen grave.

23c. The first interment in each grave set apart for the interment of persons aged twelve and upwards shall be at a depth of not less than 180 cm (6 feet). The second interment shall be at a depth of not less than 135 cm (4 feet 6 inches).

(Note:- A depth of 180 cm (six feet) allows for two interments, and 135 cm (four feet six inches) one interment).

WREATHS, FLOWER VASES AND OTHER TRIBUTES

24a. Pots, tins, jars, bottles and such articles are not permitted. Should these be found in the Cemetery they will be removed.

*Flower
holders*

24b. Metal or other flower holders may be placed on a grave at the risk of the owner but unsightly articles will not be allowed and the Council shall be at liberty to remove from graves any moveable articles which shall be broken or have become unsightly. The Council will not be responsible for the safety of objects placed on any grave including artificial wreaths.

*No
removal
without
owner's
consent*

24c. For the protection of owners of graves, no wreaths or flower vases shall be allowed to be taken out of the Cemetery without the written permission of the registered owner of the right of burial or his representative, unless the grant or receipt for purchase money be produced to the Council.

24d. Floral tributes which would require the use of easels or other wooden structures are not permitted. Any floral tributes, either at the time of the interment or going forward, must be able to fit onto the top of the grave itself and should not obtrude beyond the limits of the grave space. The Council has the right to remove floral tributes or any other kind of tributes that do not adhere to these regulations or are deemed to be unsafe.

PARTICULARS AS TO MEMORIALS

Memorials 25.(1) No memorial or vase shall be erected except over a grave in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has been granted.

(2) The grant of the exclusive right of burial in a grave shall confer on the registered owner the right to erect and maintain a memorial in the earth plot, subject to the provisions of these Regulations and to the following conditions:-

- (a) Permission for the memorial is granted for a period of 10 years. At the end of this period, permission can be renewed for a further 10 years for which a fee is payable.
- (b) It must be capable of being fitted into the allocated grave plot and should comply with all Health and Safety Regulations. Responsibility for health and safety lies with the registered owner of the grave who should, therefore, arrange their own insurance to cover them in the event of any damages or injuries caused by their memorial.
- (c) The inscription must not infringe any legislation.
- (d) For a grave space the maximum height for a headstone shall be 3 feet. Any kerbset or memorial (including base stones) must fit within the grave space – a maximum of 4 feet wide and 7 feet 6 inches long. For a space for cremated remains, any memorial must fit within the confines of the space – 2 feet 6 inches square – and should be no taller than 2 feet.

*Approval
of design
of
memorials*

(3) An application for permission to erect a memorial shall be made in the Council's prescribed form, which shall contain a dimensioned drawing or illustration of such memorial; details of the landing (where required), and a copy of every inscription and such applications shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Council and be accompanied by the appropriate fee. No memorial shall be permitted unless a permission in writing signed by the Clerk of the Council has first been obtained.

(4) All memorials shall have the number of the grave cut in 19mm (3/4") letters thereon at the expense of the registered owner of the grave.

(5) All memorials shall be kept in good repair, and in default thereof, the Council reserves the right to remove any such memorials or to require the owners to remove them. Memorials removed for the purposes of interments shall be placed in positions indicated by the Council and such memorials shall be refixed without avoidable delay.

*Position
and
fixing*

(6) Persons working on memorials will be required to work under the direction of the Council and to remove all spare soil or other materials and to leave the ground to their satisfaction. The cost of repairing damage caused as a result of any work done on memorials shall be defrayed by the person responsible or by his employer.

(7) All memorials shall remain at the sole risk of the owners of graves, and the Council shall not be responsible for any damage or breakage which may occur to the same.

(8) The Council is responsible for the maintenance of communal areas only and will carry out grass cutting and emptying of bins as needed. Responsibility for the maintenance of individual grave spaces and any memorials thereon is the responsibility of the grave owner. This includes cleaning, tidying leaves or pine needles and dealing with bird guano on headstones; the cemetery is an attractive space with nature all around so some of the above is inevitable.

COMMON GRAVES

*Council
may erect
and
inscribe*

26. After the final interment in a common grave the Council may communicate with the relatives of the persons buried in the grave and at the request and expense of such relatives or any of them erect and maintain a standard pattern memorial without ornament of any kind bearing the inscription "In Memory of" and the names, ages and dates of death, of such of the persons buried in the grave as may be requested by the relatives.

MISCELLANEOUS

Obstructions

27. No person shall wilfully impede, obstruct, disturb or interrupt any officer, workman or contractor appointed by the Council in the proper discharge of his duties.

*Authority
to eject*

28. The Council shall have the power to eject any person who has no lawful entitlement to be present in the Cemetery.

Vehicles

29. No vehicles, other than a hearse or vehicles used to carry out works at the Cemetery or on business connected with the Cemetery shall be driven over the grassed areas of the Cemetery.

30. Memorial benches are not permitted. Any that were in place prior to 1 January 2022, would be allowed to remain. The Council reserves the right to remove any benches that have fallen into disrepair.

RESERVATION BY THE COUNCIL

31. The Council expressly reserve the following rights:-

*Removal
of*

(a) To remove any flowers, wreaths or articles which have been placed upon the earth plot or the grave when a burial

<i>articles</i>	has taken place and which have wilted.
<i>Removal of memorials</i>	<p>(b) Temporarily to take down any memorial which may be rendered unsafe or dangerous during the excavation of an adjoining grave.</p> <p>(c) To remove any memorial which has not been executed in a workmanlike manner and in accordance with the approved particulars.</p> <p>(d) To take any measures or actions with regard to a memorial if found necessary to maintain good order in the Cemetery.</p>
<i>Refusal to approve inscription.</i>	(e) To refuse to approve a proposed inscription on a memorial without assigning any reason for such a refusal.
<i>Right of passage</i>	<p>(f) The right of passage over all graves for all purposes connected with the Cemetery.</p> <p>(g) To revise these Regulations and the fees from time to time.</p>

FEES

<i>As in Appendix</i>	<p>32. The fees shall be as shown in the Appendix to these Regulations. Fees not shown in the Appendix shall be the subject of special arrangement with the Council.</p> <p>33. The fees and payments set out in the Appendix apply where the person to be interred or in respect of whom the right is granted is, or immediately before his death was, an inhabitant of the Town and Parish of Wantage, or in the case of a still born child, where the parents (or one of them) are, or at the time of interment were, such inhabitants or parishioners.</p>
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WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
CHAIN HILL CEMETERY, WANTAGE

TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES

With effect from 1 January, 2023

Burials

Exclusive Right of Burial	(17 years and over)	.	£190.00
Exclusive Right of Burial	(5 to 17 years)	..	NIL
Exclusive Right of Burial	(Under 5 : Wantage residents only)	..	NIL
	(Under 5, Non-Wantage residents)	..	£100.00
Interment fee	(Private or common grave)		
	(17 years and over)	..	£60.00
	(5 to 17 years)	..	NIL
	(Under 5 : Wantage residents only)	..	NIL
	(Non-Wantage residents)	..	£41.00
Interment fee	Cremated remains (existing grave or Garden of Remembrance)	..	£36.00
Interment fee	Cremated remains (new with exclusive right)	..	£69.00
Disinterment		..	£75.00

Miscellaneous

Memorial approvals – for each application	..	£63.00
Search in register before 1965	..	£47.00
Search in register after 1965	..	£34.00
Certified copy of entry	..	£14.00
Copy certificate of burial	..	£14.00

N.B. Grave digging fees are extra and administered by undertaker. All fees are double in cases where the deceased was not an inhabitant of Wantage.