

GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Regulations for the purchase of a Memorial Headstone

Great Yeldham Parish Council (the 'Burial Authority') owns the burial ground and is responsible for its maintenance. It has planning consent for use as a burial ground.

As well as the Great Yeldham Parish Council cemetery rules and regulations, the Burial Authority is also governed by the Local Authority Cemeteries Order 1977 (LACO). Clause 3(1) of this order states: 'Subject to the provisions of this order, a Burial Authority may do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery'.

All enquiries should be made to the Parish Clerk, telephone 01787 237832 or via e-mail at clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk

Memorial Headstones

A memorial headstone is widely recognised as a way of commemorating someone's life, creating an historical record and providing a focal point for family and friends to visit. In accordance with English Law, the Burial Authority may only grant permission for a headstone to the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial (the person named on the Deed of Grant) or to another person who has the owner's written authority. If there is any doubt over the ownership of the grave, the Parish Clerk should be contacted in the first instance. The Council has the right to remove or to require the owner to remove any memorial stone which in its opinion contravenes the regulations.

The Burial Authority has the right to remove memorials after expiry of the Exclusive Right of Burial on the grave. Renewal/extension of Exclusive Right of Burial can be purchased for each additional 5 years

1) The Lawn Cemetery

A minimum of 12 months must be allowed from the date of interment for the erection of a memorial in the Lawn Cemetery to allow the earth to settle. Headstones and crosses in the Lawn Cemetery shall be erected vertically in line with the headstones of other adjoining graves and in a position approved by the Burial Authority. Headstones will not exceed 3ft (36 inches) in height measured from the highest point of the ground which is immediately adjoining nor have a width of more than 2ft 6ins (30 inches). They shall be of approved natural stone. Headstones of any other material will not be permitted in the cemetery.

2) Garden of Remembrance

A flat stone memorial can be laid straight away. Flat stone memorials in the Garden of Remembrance shall be laid in line with the memorials of adjoining plots in a position approved by the Burial Authority. Flat stone memorials will not exceed 1ft. 2 inches (14 inches) in height including the base of the memorial, 2ft.6inches (30 inches) in width and

2ft. 6inches (30inchesin depth. Memorials shall be of natural stone; no other material will be permitted in the cemetery.

All headstones and inscriptions thereon are subject to the approval of the Burial Authority. A copy of every proposed inscription and a plan of the drawing showing the form with the dimensions thereof must be left with the Clerk to the Parish Council for approval.

The Glades Stone Tablet

A stone tablet can only be purchased from the Burial Authority. A minimum of nine months must be allowed from the date of interment for the installation of a memorial in the Glades to allow the earth to settle. The wording on the tablet shall be restricted to the name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death. The stone tablet may be laid at the head of the plot for the remaining period of the Exclusive Right of Burial.

Approved Memorial Masons

To ensure that all stonemasons that carry out work in Great Yeldham Burial Grounds are suitably qualified, and competent to provide a high standard of workmanship, they must hold a current registration with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) and all work must be carried out in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Conduct, which complies with BS8415. Further details of these organisations can be found on their respective websites at www.namm.org.uk and www.bramm-uk.org.

On completion of the works, the stonemason should provide the customer with a certificate of compliance. This will be supported by the NAMM or BRAMM Code of Working Practice and current legislation at the time of the installation.

Damage to Memorials

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

It is strongly recommended that memorials are insured against all eventualities, your chosen stone mason may be able to assist you with this. The grave number must be placed on the memorial in a suitable discrete position to identify the deceased and reduce their value to possible theft.

Anyone witnessing any criminal act in the cemetery grounds should report the matter to the local police and to Great Yeldham Parish Council.

The owner shall be responsible for keeping all memorial stones in a proper state of repair and in a tidy condition. The Council has the right to remove or to require the owner to remove any memorial stone which in its opinion has become dangerous or contravenes the regulations.