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Bere Regis Cemetery Regulation

The dignity and calm of the cemetery should be respected at all times.

Opening Hours

1. The cemetery is open for pedestrian access at all time. Bere Regis Parish Council reserves the right to make such closures as may be necessary for repairs, emergencies or in the interests of public safety at any time.
2. Children under 16 are not permitted unless visiting a grave. No dogs (except guide dogs) or horses (except with a cortege) are permitted in the cemetery.
3. Any person(s) wilfully destroying, damaging or defacing any property of the Parish Council or any memorial will be prosecuted as will anyone playing games or sport, discharging firearms (excluding a military funeral), committing a nuisance or disturbing others attending a funeral/grave.

Interments and Exclusive Right of Burial

4. The hours of interment will be between 10:00am and 3pm Monday to Friday. No interment will normally take place at weekends or public holidays although Saturday interments will be permitted in special circumstances. Due consideration will be given to religious requirements which may require alteration to the foregoing.
5. No interment shall take place without permission of the Parish Council. Notice of interment must be given at least 2 working days prior to any interment to the Parish Council. The notification must be made on the official form provided by the Parish Council.
6. Ashes may not be scattered but must be interred in an earthen grave and contained in a biodegradable casket. An application for interment must be made to the Parish Clerk.
7. The Exclusive Right of Burial must be purchased and issued before an interment takes place or a memorial can be erected.
8. The Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave will be for a period of 99 years at the appropriate fee.
9. Any grave space, for which exclusive right of burial has not been purchased, may be purchased by a member of the family there buried on the terms mentioned on the list of fees. The exclusive right of burial will be granted for a period of 99 years, minus the number of years the person has been buried for.
10. The Exclusive Right of Burial may be transferred to immediate family members when the original Certificate owner dies or relinquishes ownership. Applications must be made to the Parish Clerk and a small administration fee will be charged. It is the responsibility of the owner* to inform the Parish Council of any change of address in order that the contact can be maintained.

Memorials, Floral Tributes, Trees and Shrubs

11. No memorial shall be placed in the cemetery, and no alteration/additional inscription shall be made on any memorial without the permission of the Parish Council. Applications must be made on the official form provided by the Parish Council with a plan showing the proposal. If the request is considered to be unsuitable it will be referred to the full Parish Council.
12. Memorials must be installed in accordance with the current National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Guidelines.
13. The right to erect and maintain a memorial on a grave will be granted for a period of 30 years. This period can be extended following a satisfactory inspection of the memorial. The Parish Council may authorise removal of memorials from private graves, where the right of burial period has expired, or if the memorial has not been maintained.
14. It is the responsibility of the owner* to maintain the memorial in a good state of repair. In the event of any such memorial becoming dangerous, or dilapidated, the Parish Council will give notice to the owner* requesting the repair or removal of any such memorial. Failure to do so may result in the Parish Council removing a memorial if it fails a health and safety inspection. If the Parish Council is unable to trace the owner* after taking such reasonable steps as it may consider necessary for that purpose, then the Parish Council will take appropriate action to make it safe and tidy.
15. Railings or fencing enclosing a plot of any kind are not permitted. No structures of any kind (other than an authorised memorial) are permitted on the plot.
16. Nothing may be affixed to, or land upon, any grave or monument such as lighting, ornamentation, images, models or paintings. Unauthorised items will be removed by the Parish Council and held for 60 days before disposing of them.
17. Following an interment, fresh or artificial flowers, either as wreaths or in flower pots (no glass containers may be placed on the plot) should be removed after fourteen days by either the family or Parish Council staff.
18. Flowers should only be placed in containers integral to the memorial or for graves only, place on the memorial base or for cremation plots, placed on the memorial. Flowers and/or containers must not be placed along the plat as this prevents grass maintenance. Any flowers and/or containers placed incorrectly will be removed by Parish Council staff. Glass containers are not allowed as they shatter easily and constitute a danger to the public and maintenance staff.
19. Floral tributes will be removed when dead or unsightly at the discretion of the Parish Council.
20. No tree or shrub shall be planted in, or removed from the cemetery. The Parish Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or remove any shrubs, plants or trees at any time when, in the opinion of the Council, they have become unsightly or overgrown.

Seats, Benches and Ornamentation

21. No seat, bench or ornamentation can be place in the Cemetery without the permission of the Parish Council. Applications for permission to locate a seat or bench should be submitted to the Parish Clerk.

Removal of Remains

22. Human remains shall not be removed except by the Exhumation Order from the Department of the Environment or other appropriate Statutory Authority.

Fees and Charges

23. All fees and charges must be paid to the Parish Council at the time of giving notice of the interment/erection of memorial, etc. Cheques should be made payable to "Bere Regis Parish Council".
24. The Parish Council is able to carry out searches of burial records and graves on request (charges may apply).

Disclaimer

25. The Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any damage to any memorial or any personal property taken into the Cemetery. The Parish Council will not be liable for damage to any memorial in the Cemetery caused by storm, wind, subsidence or by any other cause.
26. If any damage is caused to the Parish Council's land or premises by bringing in any materials, gravestones, or monument or from any other cause, the person or persons doing such damage will be held responsible for the same and the Parish Council may recover the cost of repairing such damage from such person or persons and, in addition, take proceedings under Article 18 of the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977.
27. These Regulations have been approved by Bere Regis Parish Council, which reserves the right to make alterations/additions as appropriate.

* - owner/purchaser/heirs or successors