



SMARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

BURIAL GROUND RULES AND REGULATIONS

RELATING TO

THE BURIAL GROUND, WATER LANE, SMARDEN, KENT

1. None of the following may take place without the specific permission of the Parish Council:

- (a) Burials and exhumations
- (b) Burial of ashes
- (c) Erection or fixing of a memorial
- (d) Renovation of a memorial
- (e) Removal and/or replacement of a memorial

2. Conduct in Burial Ground

All visitors must behave themselves in a quiet and orderly way showing respect to the solemnity of the Burial Ground and those visiting it. The Parish Council reserves the right to exclude anyone showing the effects of excess alcohol or drug abuse from the Burial Ground.

No person is to wilfully destroy or damage any grave, memorial, wall, fence, tree, plant or shrub in the Burial Ground.

Smoking is not allowed during a Funeral Service, a procession or an interment.

Dogs are welcome in the Burial Ground but must be kept on a short lead and must not be allowed to foul in the Burial Ground; owners must clean up after their dogs.

No person is to mark, disfigure or damage any memorial, wall or fence in the Burial Ground or to put up any printed paper, handbill or sign.

3. Use of the Burial Ground

All rubbish and waste must be removed. A water supply is available nearby.

Where kerbs and headstone exist and remain unattended, the Parish Council's contractor may apply a border of weed killer in order to reduce maintenance costs.

Any neglected graves will be reinstated to grass and cut by the Parish Council's contractor.

4. Cultivation

Graves may be planted up for the entire length and width of the grave and those undertaking the planting will be responsible for keeping the grave area tidy. Annual flowers may be planted but not trees, shrubs or roses. If the graves are not maintained then after a period of 12 months of neglect the Parish Council will take action and level such graves.

5. Wooden Memorials

Wooden memorials will be allowed with the prior consent of the Parish Council

6. Headstone

Headstones are to be erected at the true head end and inscriptions read from the path. All inscriptions must be approved by the Parish Council.

All headstones must not exceed 900mm (3ft) in height and 900mm (3ft) in width for a burial plot and 1ft x 1ft on 2 inch plinth for a cremation plot.

No kerbs and stones are permitted.

All headstones must be erected by a professional stonemason in a position and manner approved by the Parish Council and in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice and in any event the Parish Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any headstone or memorial in its absolute discretion.

Note: it is recommended that memorials are not erected until 12 months after an interment to allow for settlement (with the exception of small tablets).

7. Graves

All graves must be positioned as per the plan or as directed by the Parish Council.

The depth of graves are as per the regulations laid down

Before the commencement of digging, a suitable sheet of material is to be laid down to receive the earth as it is removed. If turf is removed it must be reserved for re-use on the grave. Earth not required for filling in or allowing for any settlement must be moved to the waste ground at the far end of the Burial Ground and spread out as directed by the Parish Council.

No mounds will be allowed after settlement. The grave shall be turfed level or planted with annual flowers not exceeding an area of 5 feet by 1.5ft.

The Undertaker must allow for extra topping up of graves for the first year following a burial. It is therefore advisable that the grave is not planted with bedding plants immediately as this will prevent the Contractor topping up. It is recommended that only plants in pots are used for at least six months.

The Parish Council encourages family and friends to remove dead floral tributes from a grave. In the event that this does not happen the Parish Council will remove such tributes.

I accept and will comply with the above mentioned Burial Ground Regulations, a copy of which I have retained for my information.

Name of Deceased

Date of Internment

Plot number

Signed

Please also print name

Dated

***PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO THE PARISH CLERK,
SMARDEN CHARTER HALL, CHESSENDEN LANE, SMARDEN, ASHFORD, KENT TN27 8RG***

14th October 2019