

# WATTON TOWN COUNCIL

## RULES OF THE CEMETERY

### 1) **Vases**

Glass vases or glass containers are prohibited.

No more than two vases will be allowed on any one grave.

Glass shades containing artificial flowers, jam jars, milk bottles or similar jars or bottles or receptacles shall not be allowed upon graves and the Council reserves the right to remove such shades, jars, bottles or other receptacles from graves, together with any dead vegetation etc.

### 2) **Kerbstones and Other Prohibited Things**

Kerbstones, edgings, railings, fencing, chippings of any kind, statue, sundial, birdbath, laminated card or any other object or thing is not permitted. In addition gardens on graves are NOT permitted.

### 3) **Inscription**

Should be simple, dignified and reverent, passing sentiments should be avoided.

4) The surface of the cemetery shall be kept as far as possible level and free of grass mounds. The Council may level any mound at its discretion at any time more than six months after the last internment in the grave. All graves shall be kept flat and level with adjoining ground and mounds or raised gardens on grave spaces shall not be permitted.

5) No artificial flowers (other than silk flowers, i.e. having a mixture of polyester/cotton) may be placed in the cemetery and if they are so placed the Council may remove them.

6) The Council may remove flowers of whatever kind and wreaths at their discretion having regard to their state.

7) All headstones shall be soundly constructed of suitable stone and no more than 3 feet high. Headstones shall be kept in good repair and in default thereof the Council reserves the right to remove any such headstone or to require the owners to remove them and if any such headstone is removed by the Council it shall forthwith become the property of the Council for disposal by them as they think fit.

8) All headstones shall remain at the sole risk of the owners thereof and the Council shall not be responsible for any damage or breakage, which may occur to same.

9) Stone tablets for marking the deposit of ashes should be set with their outer edge surface level with the surrounding ground.

- 10) The removing and re-fixing of headstones shall be executed by any person lawfully appointed (stonemason) by the owner of the grave.
- 11) Every headstone removed in the process of opening a grave shall be removed at the risk of the person requiring the grave to be opened, and shall be temporarily removed entirely from the cemetery and must be re-fixed within a reasonable time and the decision of the Town Clerk as to what is a reasonable time shall be final and conclusive.
- 12) All headstones removed either for the purpose of allowing an interment to take place or for any other purpose whatever shall be re-erected in accordance with the Regulations in force at the time and at cost to the owner.
- 13) The Council reserves to itself the right of passage over all graves and, where such a course is necessary, temporarily to cover or remove without notice the headstone upon any grave in order to permit the re-opening of another grave in the vicinity, or for any other purpose.
- 14) No headstone to be erected until a period of at least six months from the date of burial has elapsed.
- 15) A wooden cross 18" x 30" (0.46 x 0.75m), will be permitted on new graves for a limited period of six months until a headstone is erected. After this time, the cross will be removed and will be available for collection.
- 16) Visitors must not cycle or bring dogs into the Cemetery. Children must be supervised.
- 17) Registers of burials are kept by the Town Clerk, at whose offices searches of such Registers may be made. (A charge will be made for this)
- 18) The Council reserves the right to alter or vary the foregoing regulations or to deviate there from in any particular instances if it shall appear desirable to do so.

Otherwise than stated above no object or other thing may be placed upon or near a grave. In the event of any such object or thing being so placed the Council will at its discretion remove the same. If it does so it should if possible notify a member of the family of the deceased informing him/her of the place from which the object or thing so removed is available for collection. No legal responsibility should attach to the Council or any of its Members or staff in respect of its or their custody of any such object or thing removed.

Any power exercisable by the Council under these regulations may be delegated by the Council to a person or persons deputed to care for the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard.

(Signed) Jacqui Seal  
Town Clerk  
Watton Town Council

February 2005