

Rattlesden Parish Council

Cemetery Regulations

Graves
If someone purchases an exclusive right to burial in a particular plot, the plot remains the property of the parish council, which will maintain it to the same standards as the rest of the cemetery.
An exclusive right to burial lasts for 100 years.
When an interment takes place, the spoil from digging must be mounded over the grave, to allow for settlement. It will be the responsibility of the funeral director to remove any excess.
So that the parish council can maintain the cemetery, it will not allow anything to be placed on a grave except: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Memorials (the requirements for which are explained below)■ Flowers and wreaths
Flowers must be placed in a stone flower vase at the head of the grave.
The following items are not allowed, because they make it difficult to cut the grass in the cemetery: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Footstones■ Kerbstones■ Railings or chain link fencing■ Stones or gravel■ Any form of planting■ Items of pottery, tin, plastic or glass
The parish council has power to remove items that contravene the cemetery regulations.

Memorials
Procedure for erecting a memorial <p>Permission for a memorial must be obtained in advance from the parish council.</p> <p>The application must show the name of the deceased, as well as the name and address of the memorial's owner. It must be signed by the owner.</p> <p>The application must be accompanied by a sketch showing the size and shape of the memorial, the materials to be used, and the inscription.</p>
Safety requirements <p>To allow time for the earth over a grave to settle, memorials may not be erected until at least six months after the burial.</p> <p>The memorial must be erected by a person approved by the parish council.</p> <p>It must be erected in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons Recommended Code of Working Practice and by a NAMM/BRAMM accredited fixer.</p> <p>Anybody erecting a headstone must have public liability insurance of at least £1 million.</p>

Memorials (continued)			
<p>Permitted shapes for a memorial</p> <p>The memorial can take one of the following shapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rectangular, with heading of square, ogee, half-ogee or round shape ■ Cross ■ Scroll ■ Open book 			
<p>Cremation plaques</p> <p>Cremation memorials may be placed on an existing grave.</p> <p>If the grave already has a headstone, any separate cremation memorial must be in the form of a flat plaque that does not protrude above ground level. If there is an existing full-size headstone, the cremation memorial may be placed at 45% to the headstone.</p> <p>The requirements as to shape, materials, colours etc are the same as for other memorials.</p>			
<p>Size</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Full-size memorials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ must be no more than 3' high by 2'6" wide ■ must be at least 3" thick ■ must have a concrete foundation of no more than 3"x18"x36". </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Cremation memorials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ must be no more than 2' high by 1'3" wide ■ must be at least 2" thick ■ must have a concrete foundation of no more than 2"x18"x18". </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Full-size memorials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ must be no more than 3' high by 2'6" wide ■ must be at least 3" thick ■ must have a concrete foundation of no more than 3"x18"x36". 	<p>Cremation memorials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ must be no more than 2' high by 1'3" wide ■ must be at least 2" thick ■ must have a concrete foundation of no more than 2"x18"x18".
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<p>Materials</p> <p>The memorial can be made of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Granite ■ York stone ■ Marble ■ Slate ■ Hardwood 			
<p>Colours</p> <p>It can be in one of the following colours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ White ■ Cream ■ Grey ■ Brown ■ Black 			
<p>Other requirements for memorials</p> <p>Headstones must be inscribed on the base with the grave number, the name of the memorial mason and, where appropriate, the relevant anchor sign.</p> <p>No photos will be permitted.</p> <p>The parish council reserves the right to reject inscriptions that might be offensive.</p>			
<p>Maintenance of memorials</p> <p>The owner of a memorial is required to keep it in good repair.</p> <p>If the Council considers a memorial to be unsafe, it may require the owner to have it repaired or removed by a registered memorial mason.</p> <p>If the owner fails to do so within a reasonable time, the Council may remove the memorial without compensating the owner.</p>			