

WINCANTON CEMETERY REGULATIONS

GRAVEYARD AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Wincanton Town Council welcomes visitors to Wincanton Cemetery.

The Graveyard and Garden of Remembrance is meant specifically for parishioners and those with previously established rights of burial in the Parish.

The Cemetery is a place for peace and reflection. It is also a workplace. Accordingly, we ask all users of the Cemetery to respect the needs of others and to follow these guidelines.

The regulations include the statutory requirement contained within the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.

1. Cemetery Opening Hours

The Cemetery is open to visitors from 9am on weekdays and from 10am on Saturdays and Sundays. The Cemetery closes for visitors at the following times

1st April to 30th September – 5pm

1st October to 31st March – 4pm

As the gates will be locked at these times, all visitors and their vehicles must vacate the Cemetery prior to these times in order to secure the Cemetery.

Wincanton Town Council reserves the right to exclude the public if it should be necessary on any particular occasion. Such days and hours may be varied by Wincanton Town Council from time to time, notice whereof will be given in the Cemetery.

2. Notice of Interment

- a. All Interment requests must be made on the Notice of Interment form supplied by Wincanton Town Council.
- b. The Notice of Interment must be delivered to The Town Clerk at least two working days (48 hours) prior to the time the interment is due to take place.
- c. Interments will only be permitted to take place on Monday to Fridays.
1st April to 30th September – 9am – 3.30pm
1st October to 31st March – 9am – 3pm.
- d. Interments **will not** be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday or Public Holidays. In cases of emergency where burial must take place on one of these days a medical certificate must be produced to confirm that the immediate burial is necessary on the grounds of public health.
- e. Any requests, which have been made on the telephone, must be immediately confirmed in writing. Wincanton Town Council cannot be held responsible for any misunderstandings, which may arise as a result of a telephone instruction only.

2. Notice of Interment (continued)

- f. Any additional expense incurred by Wincanton Town Council as a result of incorrect information having been supplied will be charged to the person making the application.
- g. Interments may take place with or without the services of a clergyman or minister of religion.
- h. Fees and charges will be applied as agreed by Wincanton Town Council at the current time and must be paid for at the time of the order unless otherwise agreed.
- i. It will be the responsibility of the Funeral Director to ensure that graves are properly excavated in the correct place and that to inform Wincanton Town Council of the Grave Digger employed. In the event of an error causing the loss of any burial plot, the Funeral Director will be liable to compensate the Council. Plots should be back-filled properly in order to prevent shrinking. The Council reserves the right to inspect six months after interment to check whether any sinking of the grave has occurred. In this event, the Funeral Director will be asked to back-fill the plot to the required level.
- j. Wincanton Town Council is not responsible for the arranging or undertaking grave digging. Insurance cover for contractors undertaking grave digging is the responsibility of the said contractors, and Wincanton Town Council will accept no liability.
- k. Any damage to any boundary, headstone or other structure or any damage whatsoever, caused during the construction of any plot or during the erection, removal or replacement of any structure whatsoever, shall be repaired by and at the expense of the person causing the same.

3. Cremated Remains

A suitable receptacle containing the ashes of a cremated person may be buried in any plot in the Cemetery for which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased, or in a plot measuring 18 inches x 18 inches in the Garden of Remembrance. Plots in the Garden of Remembrance are available at single and double depths. Memorials are permitted at a size of 12 inches x 18 inches and no more than 4 inches high.

4. Private Grave

Grave spaces can be single and double depths.

- a. When purchasing a Private Grave, Wincanton Town Council will provide a document titled 'Exclusive Right of Burial' upon receipt of the purchase of a new grave. This document is proof of ownership. A copy of Cemetery Regulations will also be provided.
- b. No grave in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be opened without the signature of the owner or his/her next of kin or assignees.
- c. No second burial will be permitted in any grave unless the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased and the relevant Deed of Grant is produced for inspection. In such cases where the Deed of Grant cannot be produced, you can purchase a photocopy of Deed of Grant from Wincanton Town Council, and send with the Notice of Interment

5. Transfer of Grave Ownership

In the event of the death of the original grave owner, the person claiming to be entitled to the ownership rights must obtain a formal transfer of ownership with the Council.

A copy of the last will and testament identifying the Executor/Executrix will be accepted as proof of intended ownership. If this information is not available then the full names and addresses of all surviving children of the deceased will be required to prepare the title deed/ownership transfer. This procedure is to ensure that the remaining family of the deceased agree to that person taking over the ownership rights of the grave space.

The formal transfer must take place before funeral arrangements are made to re-open the grave space of approval granted on any proposed memorial work.

6. Grave Maintenance

- a. Grave spaces must be kept in a neat and tidy condition and any litter should be removed from the site.
- b. All graves provide in the Cemetery will be turfed flat and mown by the Council, a soil border may be planted near the memorial stone not exceeding 600mm in width and 300mm in length, this must not include tree planting.
- c. No man made kerbstones or railing of any kind (stone, wooden, plastic or otherwise) are permitted around the graves or cremations.
- d. No trees are to be planted without the permission of Wincanton Town Council
- e. No other vases, planters, pot plants, flower case of glass or plastic nor any jar or container shall be placed on or near any grave or memorial, as these will interfere with ground maintenance.
- f. No dressings of the graves or memorial stones are permitted. This includes scarves, ribbons, soft toys, ornaments, tinsel etc.
- g. The Council reserves the right at any time to remove any unauthorised item placed upon the grave space.
- h. Stone chippings and bark mulch is not permitted on the graves or cremation plots.
- i. In all cases, dead flowers and other rubbish must be placed in the waste bins provided. No stones or soil must be placed in these bins.
- j. Where in the opinion of Wincanton Town Council, any grave or cremation plot is neglected so as to be detrimental to adjacent graves and the general appearance of the Cemetery, Wincanton Town Council reserves the right, after due notice where possible, to level off such grave/cremation plot and re-turf.

7. Memorials

- a. Memorials can only be erected on grave spaces where the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased. Memorials should be sound and normally of natural stone.
- b. All memorials are subject to Wincanton Town Council approval prior to being installed within the Cemetery.

7. Memorials (continued)

- c. All memorial work undertaken must be in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice. The Monumental Mason will be responsible for leaving the grave area in a clean and tidy condition once work is completed and is responsible for any damage that may be caused to any surrounding ground or memorial as a direct result of the installation. Memorial installation cannot take place until a date and time has been agreed with the Town Council
- d. A memorial which may be either:
 - 1) A memorial headstone (without kerbs) not exceeding 3ft x 2 ½ ft
 - 2) A flower vase not exceeding 150mm in height
- e. All applications should be made to Wincanton Town Council and the application must include a detailed drawing showing all dimension sizes, the type of material to be used and full inscription details.
- f. All memorials installed within the Cemetery must have the grave number inscribed on the back of memorial, in letters not exceeding 15mm high, before installation. Memorial Masons that do not abide by this condition will be refused installation.
- g. No hewing or dressing of stone is permitted in the cemetery. As far as is practical, all materials should be prepared ready for fixing, prior to arrival at the cemetery.
- h. A temporary wooden cross maybe erected until ground conditions permit the erection of a permanent memorial.
- i. Memorial applications will incur a memorial fee, payable to Wincanton Town Council prior to their erection of any memorial.
- j. No fee will be charged for the erection of the memorials provided by the Imperial War Graves Commission (which eventually replace the Wooden Graves) on Service Graves.
- k. No fee will be charged for private memorials erected by relatives over Service Graves nor for inscriptions on memorials commemorating members serving in HM Forces at time of death.
- l. Wincanton Town Council will remove at the expense of the grave owner any memorial or kerbstone that has been installed without the necessary authorisation.

8. Memorial Maintenance

- a. All memorials are erected at the **sole responsibility** of the grave owner, or their lawful successors
- b. All memorials are the responsibility of the registered owner including damage by vandalism, theft of memorials or vases, cracking or subsidence of footings.
- c. Grave owners must ensure all memorials are kept clean and in good repair. Wincanton Town Council periodically inspects the cemetery to determine the condition of memorials. Any memorial classified as unsafe will be reported to the grave owner in order for them to arrange immediate repair. If this request is not complied with within three months the Council may lay flat the memorial to remove the danger of instability.

8. Memorial Maintenance (continued)

- d. If the grave owner cannot be identified/contacted the Council reserves the right to repair or make safe any memorial which is allowed to fall into disrepair or become unsightly or dangerous and recover expenses from the registered owner or the owner's beneficiaries.
- e. Wincanton Town Council has the power to remove any memorial, which they deem objectionable or of unauthorised type or size or which may have fallen into decay or is classified unsafe.
- f. Wincanton Town Council will not be responsible for any damage to monuments, gravestones and other structures other than damage occasioned by the negligence of its officers, agents or workmen.

9. General Rules

- a. Under no circumstances are dogs allowed in the Cemetery, other than Guide Dogs.
- b. All visitors are asked to keep to the footpaths and driveways attending a grave and, generally, respect the Cemetery at all times. In particular, visitors are requested not to pick, cut, fell or remove any shrub, tree or flowers growing within the Cemetery or to interfere with any monument, headstone, grave or memorial.
- c. Children under the age of 12 are not normally permitted in the Cemetery unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- d. So as to reflect the needs of others, visitors are asked not to wilfully create any disturbance in the Cemetery or behave in a way that may be a nuisance to others. In particular, the playing of games and sports is not permitted. Mobile telephones, walkmans and similar equipment may not be used in the Cemetery in order to avoid disturbance to others. The Council reserves the right to exclude any person from the Cemetery.
- e. Soliciting for orders within the Cemetery for the erection or repair of any monument headstone or other structure, or for any other work connected with graves, is strictly prohibited. Wincanton Town Council reserves the right to exclude from the Cemetery, any person or company or firm on whose behalf any person, has been found soliciting
- f. The Council reserves the right to make from time to time any alterations to the Information and Regulations specified herein

10 Non Parishioners

Non Parishioners will only be interred into an existing family grave where double fees will apply. At the discretion of the Clerk, the internment of a non parishioner may be considered, where they were formerly a long standing resident but were obliged to reside outside the parish during their declining years in order to receive nursing or other residential care.

For enquiries or complaints in relation to any cemetery matter please contact The Town Clerk who will be pleased to render whatever advice or help is needed. Wincanton Town Council is located at the Town Hall. The Town Hall is open Monday to Thursday 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm; and Fridays 9am to 12 noon.

✉ The Town Clerk, Wincanton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9LD.

☎ Telephone: 01963 31693

✉ Email: wincantontownclerk@hotmail.co.uk