

STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL
Cemetery Byelaws and Guidelines for the
Management of the Cemetery
Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding
Revised July 2023

The cemetery is managed and operated in accordance with the **Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977**.

By **Article 3(1)** of the **Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977**, Stoke Golding Parish Council may do all things, as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation, and control of a cemetery.

No person in any cemetery shall: -

Willfully create any disturbance.

Commit any nuisance.

Willfully interfere with any burial taking place.

Willfully interfere with any grave or vault or tombstone or other memorial or any flowers or plants on any such grave.

The hours of opening shall be from dawn to dusk.

Damaging or destroying property is in the Contravention of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and will be dealt with accordingly.

The maximum fine is in accordance with the current legislation.

No dogs except for guide dogs will be allowed in the cemetery.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ERECTION OF MEMORIALS IN THE OLD CEMETERY.

Burial areas within the cemetery are laid out as lawned sections for ease of maintenance and consequently fences, kerbs and grave surrounds are not now permitted.

Purchasers of graves may erect memorials subject to obtaining written authority from the Parish Council's representative and by paying the appropriate fee. The following provisions apply: -

Wooden Crosses. The installation of wooden crosses may only be made by undertakers for the purpose of marking a grave as a temporary measure prior to the installation of a permanent memorial of some type of stone.

Stone Memorials. All memorials in the cemetery must be of some natural quarried stone and the design must be approved by the Parish Council's representative before erection. No 'full grave' memorial may exceed 3ft 6ins in width or 4ft in height. Cremation and casket plots memorials may not exceed 2ft in width and 2ft 6ins in height. Persons wishing to erect any memorial must consult the Cemetery Administrator before applying to do so. Plaques on the Memorial Wall are allowed subject to the same approval and payment of a fee. Only one memorial is permitted per grave plot, but additional names may be added to an existing memorial with the permission of the Burial Authority.

All memorials and the installation of such memorials must be fitted by a qualified stonemason and works must be carried out to the recognised industry standard as laid down by the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice giving at least a 20-year guarantee.

Any memorial placed in the cemetery on behalf of a deceased person shall remain the property of that person so placing it who shall be responsible for its placing, upkeep, and continued safety. If the stone, for any reason becomes a danger to the public the Burial Authority shall retain the right to demand that it be made safe or to demand its removal or they may remove the memorial or lay it flat without the permission of the owner and at the expense of the owner if they can be traced.

Any memorial installed in the cemetery will be inspected and tested every 3-5 years to ensure that it withstands a reasonable pressure that may be applied by users of the cemetery.

The planting of trees and shrubs. The full-length planting of a grave is not permitted, neither is the planting of trees or shrubs elsewhere in the cemetery grounds except by permission of the Burial Authority in a specially designated area usually in memory of the deceased. A small plastic plaque of dedication is permitted to be placed at the base of such tree subject to the approval of the Burial Authority. There is no erection fee charged by the Burial Authority for these plaques.

Graves. The planting of trees, shrubs, flowers or bulbs or the placing of toys or other objects on a grave is not permitted to ensure that regular and problem free maintenance of the grave area can be completed. Flowers are, of course permitted to be placed on the headstone or in a pot associated with that head stone.
To keep the cemetery in good order or repair the burial authority will trim or spray weeds etc. on untended trees/bushes that have not been granted the right to be planted in the cemetery or are encroaching on other grave spaces may be removed by the burial authority

Turfing. All new graves will be turfed by the Parish Council after settlement has taken place on the grave when weather conditions permit. This may, in some cases, be several months.

Fences kerbs and surrounds. The installation of such new surrounds in any material is not permitted on graves or cremation plots and any such installation may be removed by the Burial Authority without prior notice as may any material not described in these notes, and which, in the opinion of the Burial Authority detracts from the general tidiness of the cemetery.

Permission must be obtained from the Burial Authority's Representative to inter remains in the cemetery or erect any form of memorial. Fees in relation to such applications will vary from time to time.

Burial Authority: Stoke Golding Parish Council

Burial and memorial enquiries: cemeteryadmin@stokegoldingparishcouncil.gov.uk

These notes are for guidance and should not be read as a comprehensive set of rules.