

Easton Parish Council

CEMETERY RULES

PART I - GENERAL

1. Nothing shall be erected or placed, and no work shall be done in the churchyard without the consent of the Parish Council. The extent of that authority is set out in Part II below.
2. Any consent must be in writing from the Parish Council.
3. Every application for consent shall be made in the first instance to the Parish Council Clerk.
4. No work should start until a faculty or consent has been given. Applicants for monuments should ask the memorial supplier to confirm whether the memorial falls within the scope of the authority delegated by the Parish Council under Part II below.

Any contract between the memorial supplier and the client is conditional on the appropriate approval being granted.

5. The Parish Council cannot give consent to a monument outside the scope of Part II below even if there are existing monuments in the churchyard that are broadly similar.

The Parish Council is not bound by past practice in the churchyard.

6. If there is any evidence of disagreement within a family about a proposed monument, the costs of this will be borne by the applicants.
7. Applicants are advised to discuss their proposals informally with the Parish Council first.
8. The Parish Council has power to require the removal of unauthorised memorials and to make orders for costs and impose fines for contempt. Also power to impose restrictions on funeral directors and stonemasons ignoring these rules in Easton Cemetery.
9. No burials may take place unless authorised by the Parish Council.
10. All applications for consent for a memorial inside a church must be referred to the Parish Council

11. Burial areas within the Cemetery are laid out for neatness and maintenance. Consequently, headstones, grave markers, and vases may only be placed or erected at the head of graves, and on the plinth of the headstone. For the same reason, the Council will not permit the installation of kerbs, fences or any kind of grave surrounds nor the planting of flowers, shrubs or trees or the creation of any kind of hard or gravelled surfacing on or beside any grave or cremation plot. All new graves will be turfed after settlement of the grave surface and when the weather permits. Any items or planting placed on or by graves or elsewhere in the Cemetery precincts not in accordance with the Council's specifications or written permission will be removed without notice. For safety reasons, glass vases and ornaments are not permitted anywhere in this cemetery.

PART II - HEADSTONES AND MEMORIALS

The erection of a headstone or other memorial is a privilege and not a right. The Parish Council has power within its sole discretion to permit headstones and memorials to persons whose remains are buried in the cemetery.

The following provisions are:-

Headstones

1 Earthen burials (a) Both faces must be flat and not curved and the stone must be erected vertically. The dimensions shall not be more than 4ft (1200mm) high, 3ft (900mm) wide and 6ins (150mm) thick and not less than 2ft 6ins (762mm) high, 1ft 3ins (375mm) wide and 3ins (75mm) thick (slate 2ins). (These measurements include the base.)

A headstone shall not be erected within 4ft (1200mm) of the outer boundary of the cemetery.

(b) The preferred style is a traditional monolith headstone, but lawn-style headstones may be permitted. A base forming an integral part of the design of a headstone is permitted. The headstone must be fixed in accordance with the current National Association of Memorial Masons' Code of Practice and in strict accordance with British Standard 8415 (as amended or replaced from time to time). The person carrying out the work must have adequate public liability insurance and produce evidence of it if so required. A certificate of compliance in the form approved by the Parish Council must be issued to the family and to the PCC following the memorial's erection.

The base shall not project more than 4ins (100mm) beyond the headstone in any direction.

Not more than two vases (not glass) may be incorporated in the base. In such case the base may extend a maximum of 8ins (200mm) in front of the headstone.

The base shall itself be fixed on a foundation slab (which may be reinforced concrete) which should be positioned just below the turf so that a mower may pass freely over it.

The foundation slab shall extend beyond the base by between 3 and 5ins (75 to 124mm) all round.

2. Headstones for young children It is acknowledged that these are a special case but headstones should be large enough to be seen easily so that they are not damaged inadvertently and they should be strong enough to survive accidental knocks. In these cases therefore, the minimum size is 1ft 6ins in height by 1ft in width by 3ins thick (460mm x 300mm x 75mm) for all materials other than slate which must have a minimum thickness of 1½ ins (30mm).

3. Cremated Remains (a) These may, subject to (b) below, be commemorated by a memorial not exceeding 1ft 9ins (535mm) square, upright with the turf. A vase may be incorporated. (b) However, where a part of the cemetery has been specially set aside by faculty for the burial of cremated remains nothing shall be introduced into that area except in accordance with the terms of the faculty.

4. Materials for Headstones and memorials must not be garish in colour nor darker than Welsh slate nor lighter than Portland limestone or Cornish silver-grey granite. They must be of natural stone but not marble of any colour and not black, red or pink granite. Stones traditionally used in local buildings or closely similar to them in colour and texture are to be preferred.

The stone including the lettering surface shall not be mirror polished (i.e. highly polished so as to reflect or any finer than a 220 grade hone). Solid wood memorials are permitted with a natural matt finish. All other materials are prohibited including concrete, synthetic and/or composite stone, plastic, fibre-glass and metal.

5. Prohibited items are: Kerbs, surrounds, railings, stone or other chippings, statues, sundials, bird baths, portraits, wind-chimes, windmills and the like, candles, trees, shrubs, photographs, holograms, laminated cards, seats, lights, toys, horizontal ledgers and slabs, and other things not specifically permitted by these rules are prohibited.

6. Shape and inscriptions Memorials should have a simple shape and shall not be in the form of a figure, heart, book or anything else unusual. Designs of a simple nature and/or words may be incised on one side only. Inscriptions must not be profane or offensive.

All lettering must be incised. Uncoloured lettering is preferred, although black, silver or gold may be allowed, but not leaded. Further inscriptions may be added with the written consent of the parish priest, usually on a second interment in the same grave.

Existing lettering may in such a case be renovated so as to match the new, but not otherwise. No advertisement or trade mark shall be inscribed on the monument, but the name of the mason may be inscribed at the side or on the reverse of a headstone in letters no more than ½in (15mm) in height.

7. Crosses (a) Because the cross is the supreme Christian symbol, every application for a memorial in the shape of a cross (other than a temporary wooden marker) will be considered on its individual merits.

(b) Informal guidance shall be sought as early as possible from the Clerk of the Parish Council. The proposed memorial should be of a shape, height and stone similar to other memorials and clearly in keeping with the appearance of that cemetery.

8. Coffins and caskets These should be made of wood or other biodegradable material.

9. Temporary grave-markers The Parish Council may allow a temporary period if they consist of a plain wooden stake not exceeding 16" (400 mm) in height above ground. The stake may be in the shape of a cross but the cross-piece should be no longer than 8" (200 mm). The name of the deceased may be painted or stamped on it. Alternatively, the stake or cross may include a wooden plaque not exceeding 5" by 3.5" (130 mm by 90 mm) with an attached brass or brass-effect plaque not exceeding 4" by 2.5" (105 mm by 65 mm).

PART III - MANAGEMENT

1. As far as possible the surface of the churchyard shall be kept level and free of grave mounds. The Parish Council level any mound at its discretion at any time more than twelve months after the latest interment in the grave if the family has not already done so.

2. Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the soil of a grave, within the area previously excavated but nothing else. Plants or flowers may be placed in a removeable container (not glass). Unless the grave is kept tidy the Parish Council may treat the grave as part of the turf and mow over it.

4. No artificial flowers (other than "silk" flowers ie having a mixture of polyester/cotton) may be placed in the cemetery and if they are, the Parish Council may remove them without notice.

5. The Parish Council may without notice remove flowers and wreaths (of any kind) if they become unsightly or untidy, and any superfluous vases.

6. The Parish Council may without notice remove any other object not authorised by these rules or by faculty.
7. The Parish Council may delegate the exercise of its powers in respect of the cemetery to an individual or individuals.
8. Primary responsibility for the repair and safety of monuments rests with those who erected them, and with their successors. In exercising its general responsibility for the cemetery Parish Council is entitled to reimbursement by such persons of its proper and reasonable costs for work done by the Parish Council to keep monuments and graves safe and in decent order.
9. Dogs must be kept under control and not allowed to foul the churchyard. The Parish Council may require dogs to be kept on leads and may exclude them.

These revised Cemetery Rules were adopted by Easton Parish Council – 2nd November 2020.

Any query regarding the rules and any application should be to:

Parish Clerk- Andrew Staples

Easton Parish Council

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