



NEW ROAD CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS – FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Contact

Please contact Ilminster Town Council, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster TA19 0DG, Tel: 01460 52149, Fax: 01460 55642, e-mail: town.council@ilminster.gov.uk between the hours of 9.00 am and 12.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Applications

'Notice of Interment' forms must be received at the Council offices between 9 am and 1 pm at least 3 clear working days before the date of interment.

Sites of new graves will be determined by the Council.

For interments in an existing grave proof of ownership of Exclusive Right of Burial must be provided.

If no proof of ownership can be provided no burial will be allowed.

Only coffins and caskets made of wood or other biodegradable materials shall be used for interment.

All coffins and caskets must be clearly identified with the name of the deceased.

The Funeral director is responsible for employing a gravedigger and must ensure that all work is carried out according to the Town Council's regulations listed below.

A copy of the Funeral Director's public liability insurance cover (£5,000,000) must be provided. (Funeral Directors are to ensure that gravediggers have similar public liability insurance cover.)

All burial and cremation plots will be of double depth unless conditions of the ground are unsuitable.

Cremated remains may only be interred in a previously purchased plot.

Grave spaces will be marked and labelled by Council staff.

The Funeral Director is responsible for the provision of sufficient bearers to convey the coffin to the grave side.

The Funeral Director is responsible for the safety and behaviour of those attending the funeral.

A certificate of the Registrar of Deaths or Coroner must be handed to the Clerk.

Gravedigging

All work in the cemetery must comply with the ICCM Code of Safe Working Practice for Cemeteries (copies can be obtained from the Town Council).

New Grave plots are to be 275cm (9ft) long x 122cm (4ft) wide

All graves to be dug to depth of 213cm (7ft) and cremation plots must be no less than 90cm (3ft).

No body shall be buried in a grave so that any part of the coffin is at a depth of less than 90 cm (3ft) below the level of the ground adjoining the grave.

No body shall be buried in a grave unless the coffin is effectually separated from any other coffin already in that grave by the means of a layer of earth not less than 15cm (6in) in thickness.

When filling a grave earth must be tamped down every 15cm (6in) and be levelled ready for mowing. Should subsidence occur within 6 months of burial it must be rectified.

Where any grave is re-opened for the purposes of making another interment therein, no person shall disturb any human remains interred therein or remove there from any soil which is offensive.

On completion of each burial gravediggers are to remove all boards, wheelbarrows and equipment from the cemetery.

The area to be dug to be no more than 213cm (7ft) long x 60-66cm (24-26in) wide (depending on size of coffin – sometimes it can be wider – if so permission is to be sought from Council)

The 60cm (2ft) at the head of the grave is left undisturbed for the headstone.

Second burial in a double grave must have at least 15cm (6in) of undisturbed soil. With coffins an average of 38cm (1ft 3in) high this should leave 90cm (3ft) from top of second coffin to ground level.

The maximum number of interments permitted in a full size, double depth, burial plot will be 2 burials and up to 6 sets of ashes provided that sufficient accurate information is held to be able to reasonably judge that no human remains will be disturbed nor any offensive soil removed. In any cases of doubt the Town Clerk will refer the matter to the Open Spaces Committee or if the matter is urgent for the Town Clerk will make a decision following consultation with the Mayor, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces Committee.

Spoil is to be disposed of in an area specified by Town Council.

There is to be no driving of any vehicles over graves. Where it is considered absolutely necessary permission must be obtained from the Council. Any damage caused must be repaired.

Wherever a burial has taken place the surface of the grave shall be covered with turf until a headstone, if any, is erected on it and in no case shall the bare earth be left exposed.