

**Cemetery Rules and Regulation
Open Spaces Committee 11 April 2017**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the timescale for removal of wreaths and cut flowers is amended from 3 months to 6 weeks**
- (ii) That options for grave digging are explored and reported back to the Committee**
- (iii) That the rules for Memorial Masons explicitly state the need of membership of the National Association of Memorial Masons or the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons**
- (iv) That the Committee decides whether or not interments should be allowed on a Sunday**
- (v) That the Committee considers whether any other changes to any of the Rules and Regulations are required.**

Introduction

1. There are 3 sets of Rules and Regulations for Ilminster cemetery - the current versions of which accompany this report:
 - A. General Rules and Regulations
 - B. Rules and Regulations For Funeral Directors
 - C. Rules and Regulations For Memorial Masons
2. There has not been a general review of the Rules and Regulations for at least 4 years.

Background Information

3. All the Rules and Regulation are published on the Town Council's website and paper copies are issued at appropriate times such as when a plot is purchased or transferred.

Suggested Changes

4. General Rules & Regulations

The existing Rules and Regulations state "Wreaths and cut flowers may be placed on graves subject to the discretion of the Council but when removed must be placed in the bins provided. All flowers and wreaths (including artificial flowers and decorations) will be removed by staff after three months." This timescale means that Christmas decorations may still be in place on Valentines Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter. It is suggested that this timescale be reviewed and shortened.

5. Rules and Regulations For Funeral Directors

The current Rules and Regulations put the responsibility for engaging the gravedigger onto the Funeral Director. In recent years there have been concerns about the standards of work and possible health and safety issues.

Many burial authorities arrange and directly control the gravedigging and it is recommended that options be researched so that the Town Council can consider this matter further.

6. **Rules And Regulations For Stonemasons**

It has been the Town Council's practice to only allow memorial masons who are members of either the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) or the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) to work in the Ilminster Cemetery however this is not stated in the Rules and Regulations for Memorial Masons; it is recommended that the requirement for masons working in Ilminster cemetery to be either members of NAMM or BRAMM is explicitly stated in the Rules and Regulations for Memorial Masons

7. In previous versions of the Rules and Regulations (General and Funeral Directors) it was stated that no interments were to take place on a Sunday, however this is not in the current Rules and Regulations but there seems to be no evidence that this was a Council decision. The Committee is asked to formally agree whether or not interments should be allowed on a Sunday.
8. The Committee may wish to consider whether or not any other changes to any of the Rules and Regulations are required.

Report prepared

9 April 2017

For further information contact the Town Clerk email town.council@ilminster.gov.uk or telephone 01460 52149