

## **Aller Cemetery Rules and Regulations 2019**

All previous Rules and Regulations previously made by the Council are hereby superseded as of 11 November 2019.

The rules and regulations will be reviewed at least annually and the council reserves the right to make alterations, additions or amendments.

### **Introduction**

The Cemetery adjacent to St Andrews Church is owned and administered by Aller Parish Council, the Burial Authority for the Parish. If you have any questions about the cemetery or these rules please contact Councillor Mrs Mary Lockyer (01458 250166). Records of Burials and graves are securely kept by Mrs Lockyer. She is also responsible for the collection and banking of all cemetery fees on behalf of Aller Parish Council.

### **Access**

The cemetery is open to visitors with unrestricted pedestrian access during daylight hours. Aller Parish Council reserve the right to close or limit access to the cemetery when necessary.

Dogs may be taken into the cemetery on a short lead and under control at all times. Dog fouling is prohibited.

### **Fees**

Fees are reviewed annually and displayed on the Aller Parish Council website.

### **Allocation of grave spaces**

Due to the restricted space available burials are restricted to those resident in the parish at the time of death or with a close connection to the parish, such as those who previously lived or worked in the parish for a substantial period.

Grave spaces are allocated in strict rotation on request from the undertaker or person organising the funeral.

In addition to the fee for burial an Exclusive Right of Burial (ERB) may be purchased. Aller Burial Authority operates an ERB period of 100 years.

When a grave site has been allocated for a burial, additional graves may be reserved so that named relatives can be buried close to the deceased. A space may be reserved for the subsequent interment of a daughter or son even if that person has not lived in the parish.

It is not possible to guarantee a specific burial place will be available at a future date. However, if due to unforeseen circumstances a burial cannot take place in a previously identified space, every effort will be made to find a location as close as possible to that originally reserved.

The right to burial does not confer ownership of the land in which a burial takes place. Ownership of all land in the cemetery lies with Aller Parish Council.

Notwithstanding any permission granted by the council we reserve the right of passage over all graves and to have any grave temporarily covered whilst carrying out excavations.

## **Burial**

We must receive the Registrar's Certificate for Disposal or Coroner's Order for Burial before any burial takes place.

Upon payment of the appropriate fees to Aller Parish Council we will allocate a burial site and mark it. It is the responsibility of the undertaker to arrange and pay for the services of a grave digger.

When graves are opened it is the responsibility of the gravedigger to protect the ground beneath excavated soil, to remove any surplus soil from the cemetery and reinstate any

other memorial disturbed in the course of interment. This must be done as soon as possible after the burial.

Surplus soil removed from the cemetery must not be placed in the churchyard without permission from the churchwarden or incumbent.

Burial of cremated remains may only take place with the permission of Aller Parish Council. The scattering of cremated remains on purchased or un-purchased graves or in any other area of the cemetery is forbidden.

If in doubt regarding any of the above, please speak to the Parish Council representative.

### **Memorials, headstones or tablets**

Aller Parish Council allows the erection of memorials for graves and tablets for cremated remains only after the grant of Exclusive Right of Burial. Kerb sets or other markings around the edge of a burial plot are not permitted.

No memorial may be installed without prior permission.

Application must be made to the Parish Council Representative with full details of a proposed memorial including a drawing with dimensions, materials, inscription and any additional decoration such as photographs.

We will give permission as long as the work is carried out by a company registered by the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) and meets the approved specifications set out below. Fixing teams will have at least one person in possession of a BRAAM fixers licence.

Headstones and memorials must not exceed 2'3" (69cm) in height (above ground level); 21" (54cms) in width and of sufficient thickness to support its height to ensure its stability.. The stone should stand on a plinth measuring 24" (61cm) w x 12" (31cm) depth flush with or below the adjoining ground level. The plinth to be on a ground anchor of no larger than 36" (92cm) w x 18" (46cm) depth.

A flat stone of up to 7" x 3" (215 cm x 92 cm) set flush to ground level on suitable foundations may be permitted subject to assessment of the proposed site and adjacent memorials.

Memorials for ashes shall be laid flat and not more than 1'6" x 1' x 2" (45cm x 30cm x 50cm) on a concrete base sufficiently wide to bridge the grave and rest on undisturbed ground.

Fees for erecting memorials shall be payable to Aller Parish Council before any memorial is erected.

The planting of trees, shrubs, roses and perennial plants on a grave is not permitted.

The planting of annuals is generally not permitted apart from the period immediately after burial or interment. Spring bulbs are generally permitted – subject to acceptance that once grass mowing starts, the flowers may be cut down. Planting that exists prior to these regulations will only remain at the discretion of Aller Parish Council.

## **Maintenance**

Temporary wooden markers are permitted subject to the approval of the council and must be removed when a permanent memorial is set.

Floral tributes may be removed from two weeks following the interment.

It is forbidden to place glass containers, shades, tins, solar lamps, plastic or wire mesh fences, or other items of glass, metal or plastic on graves. Plastic flowers and wreaths are not permitted.

The council may remove any item placed in contravention of the rules or any other item that may interfere with maintenance of the cemetery or pose a risk of injury to visitors or those working in the cemetery.

The council reserves the right to remove (and dispose of) from any grave space flowers, plants, floral tributes, wreaths or other items which have deteriorated or become unsightly.

Headstones, memorials etc. are the responsibility of the holder of exclusive burial rights. The council reserve the right to test headstones for safety if it is suspected they may be unsafe. Memorial headstones that fail a safety test will be required to be repaired as soon as possible by the deed holder. If a repair is not undertaken within six months from notification, or if notification cannot be made due to the lack of contact details the council will take appropriate measures to ensure the memorial is safe.