

LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Regulations

1. In the following regulations “Authority” means Lyndhurst Parish Council and “Clerk” means the Clerk of the Parish Council. A section of the Churchyard has been consecrated according to the rites of the Established Church, the Church of England. A section is allotted for use by the Roman Catholic Church.
2. The Right of Burial in the Churchyard is reserved for residents of the Parish, former residents of the Parish and those with close relatives already buried in the Churchyard. Exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee of the Authority.
3. Prior Notice, of at least 48 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays) of every interment, on a form available from the Parish Council, must be given to the Clerk during normal business hours of between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm. In special circumstances contact the Clerk.
4. Hours of interment will be between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm, with no interments taking place on Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays, except in very special circumstances.
5. All fees and charges to be paid to the Clerk at the time of giving notice.
6. The selection of the grave space will be made by the Clerk or other Proper Officer of the Council. Appeals against such selection should be made to the Authority.
7. The Certificate of the Registrar of Deaths, or a Coroner when an inquest has been held, must be given to the Clerk, or nominated person before an interment can take place.
8. A certificate of ownership of a grave or written authority of right to burial in a particular grave must be presented at the time notice of interment is given.
9. Materials of every description to be used in the construction of graves and all stones, tablets and monuments shall be moved within the cemetery in a conveyance with wheels not likely to cause damage to the paths or turf.
10. The person responsible for erecting, fixing, moving or transporting material must provide all necessary tools, equipment and labour. All spare soil must be moved and the area cleared and cleaned on completion of work. No materials, planks, corrugated iron, etc to be left in the cemetery.
11. No memorial of any description shall be erected without the prior written approval of the Authority. The use of NAMM (National Association of Monumental Masons) registered stone masons only will be permitted. Headstones shall be fixed using ground anchor stainless steel dowels approved by NAMM.

12. All memorials shall be installed in accordance with the current requirements of the Authority. The maximum height of a memorial shall be 4 feet 6 inches. The ownership of a memorial and the responsibility for its safety remain with the family of the deceased person/s and they are responsible for any costs incurred in making the memorial safe. Routine inspections will be undertaken and the right is reserved by the Parish Council to take such action as it thinks fit at any time in order to maintain public safety. Reasonable attempts will be made to contact families where possible when a headstone is considered to be in need of repair. If the condition of the headstone necessitates it being laid flat in order to prevent a safety hazard this will be done without reference to the relatives. No costs will be incurred by the Parish Council unless absolutely necessary and such costs will be recoverable from the relatives if remedial action has to be taken by the Parish Council.

13. Ashes will be buried in graves at least one foot in front of the headstone to allow for ground anchor fixing. **Scattering of Ashes is only permitted in the cremation circle or on family graves as directed by the Clerk.**

14. Floral tributes, whether real or artificial flowers, will be removed when they have deteriorated, at the groundsmen's discretion. Memorial wreaths at Christmas, whether real or artificial, will be removed around mid-January or at the groundsmen's discretion. Plants may be planted on a grave. Other tributes such as toys, personal effects, photographs, etc are permitted on a grave or memorial if of good taste. No solar lights are permitted.

15. Memorial seats are permitted in the cemetery subject to space limitations. Seats will be located within designated areas and prior agreement for the location must be obtained from the Parish Council in writing. Seats will be regularly stained by the Authority's ground staff. Seats will be removed by the Authority once they are no longer safe for use unless they are repaired or replaced at the expense of the original provider. Permission will not be granted for seats to be placed beside any grave.

16. The planting of Memorial trees is at the discretion of the authority and prior permission must be obtained. Trees will be maintained by pruning, etc at the discretion of the Authority.

17. Before a memorial is erected the correct grave space must be verified and agreed with the Clerk or Proper Officer of the Authority.

18. To facilitate mowing of the grass in areas used as "lawn burial grounds", no memorial or object, other than moveable vases and plant plots, will be permitted and they are to be placed at the base of the headstone only. Empty vases left on graves will be removed by the groundsmen.

19. In all cases, designs, dimensions and inscriptions proposed must be submitted for approval by the Parish Council, the decision of which shall be final, and any contemplated work not provided for above shall be subject to an arrangement of the Authority and an appropriate fee being paid.

20. No body shall be buried in a grave so that any part of the coffin is at a depth of less than 3 feet below the level of the ground surrounding the grave.

21. No body shall be buried in a grave unless the coffin is separated effectively by not less than a 6 inch layer of earth from any other coffin already in the grave.

22. Where any grave is re-opened for the purpose of making another interment therein, no person shall disturb any human remains or remove therefrom any soil.
23. Dogs are allowed in the churchyard only if on a lead.
24. Cycling or the use of a skateboard in the churchyard is not permitted.
25. Water is provided in tanks alongside the northern side of the Chapel. This water is for floral tributes and not for drinking.
26. Mobile phones must be switched off whilst in the cemetery.