

West Rainton Parish Council - 20 December 2018

Item 11 a: Grave adornment policy

Report of G Keedy, Project Officer

At its' meeting held on 15 November 2018, Parish Council considered initial suggestions for a Grave Adornment Policy to further improve the appearance and health and safety of the cemetery.

This report includes modified suggestions, based upon discussions at the November meeting and subsequent feedback from Members.

Memorials and kerb surrounds:

Kerb sets are not permitted at new graves in the designated lawn section of the cemetery nor older parts of the cemetery where existing graves currently have no memorial or kerb set.

Memorial headstones and grave surrounds must be of a professional quality, and be installed only by an appropriately qualified contractor.

Any memorial or grave surround deemed to be unsafe will be subject to an assessment by Parish Council and may lead to removal without notice in the interests of health and safety of cemetery users.

Tributes (Flowers, Wreath, Ornaments)

Tributes should only be placed within the boundary of a burial plot.

For health and safety reasons, glass vases, jars, pottery or flimsy ornaments are not allowed in any part of the cemetery. Any items placed on a grave that could represent a health and safety risk will be removed.

Fresh floral tributes should be removed no later than two weeks after placement. Those tributes considered to be in decay will be removed and disposed of.

Artificial floral tributes/wreaths laid for specific seasonal occasions ie. Remembrance Day and Christmas should be removed within 3 months of the event.

All faded artificial tributes should be removed.

All waste should be placed in the waste bin provided.

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Free standing vases and pots are not permitted at:

- new graves in the designated lawn section of the cemetery
- in older parts of the cemetery where existing graves currently have no memorial or kerb set

Flower containers in these areas must be requested as an integral part of a memorial headstone when these are commissioned.

For new graves, pending the installation of a permanent memorial, adornments will be limited to a grave identification marker and floral tribute.

All ornaments, flowers and other tributes are placed at the owner's own risk.

Solar lights

These will not be permitted in the cemetery.

Note: Cemetery users requiring advice on the implications of these rules should contact the Parish Council.

The Parish Council reserves the right to amend these rules as considered necessary.

Parish Council is asked to further consider the suitability of the suggested approach and a date for implementation.