

Cemetery Regulations

These regulations cover the different kinds of burial facilities which are available together with information about memorials permitted.

Interments

All new graves are single graves. The majority of burials take place to the east of the central road i.e., the Linden Walk side and headstones **only** are allowed as memorials. The cemetery is classed as a meadow cemetery (rather than lawn) and will therefore be maintained as such, and whilst every effort is made to keep grassed areas as tidy as possible this may not always be achieved due to seasonal factors.

Children's Burial Area

A special area has been set aside as a children's burial area. The rules regarding permitted memorials are different for this area of the cemetery (see below). The use of this area for children's burials is optional; however children buried in other parts of the cemetery are subject to the standard rules for memorials.

Cremated Remains

There are three choices for burying cremated remains:

- i) Garden of Remembrance - The remains are buried in a plot, but the individual location is not marked by any form of memorial. Plaques can be put on the memorial wall;
- ii) Cremation Plot - This is an area near the Garden of Remembrance. A maximum of two sets of ashes are buried in allocated plots and a tablet of standard size and materials is permitted;
- iii) Existing Graves - Cremated remains can be buried in an existing grave providing there is an appropriate relationship, and subject to permission being sought can also be marked appropriately.

Reservation of Grave Spaces

Individual grave spaces or Cremation Plots can be reserved for future use; these are normally within the current area being used for burials and can be made at the time of interment for adjacent spaces or as a future reservation. The reservation is for a period of sixty years. Provisional reservations are accepted "on request" but must be confirmed and paid for within 4 weeks.

Decoration of Graves

Graves may be decorated with fresh flowers, or small pot plants (placed in the headstone containers only). Artificial flowers, plants, bulbs, shrubs and other moveable items will usually be prohibited.

Visitors are reminded to be respectful of neighbouring graves and to take all waste to the nearest bins provided for that use. Watering cans and taps are positioned at regular intervals, visitors making use of these are asked to return the cans to the tap after use.

Visitors to the Cemetery

Visitors are reminded that the cemetery is a place of dignity and calm and should be respected at all times, and have a duty of care to all other visitors and cemetery employees.

Memorials

No memorials of any sort are permitted without permission of the Town Council; applications can be made via local Monumental Masons or directly to the Town Clerk. All memorial fixings must comply with the minimum requirements of the National Association of Monumental Masons and must contain information relating to the compartment and grave space occupied.

Memorials continued

In the main burial section headstones incorporating a vase, or a single memorial vase, are allowed as are in some circumstances joint memorials / bases for adjacent graves again the designs requiring approval before proceeding. Other moveable items will usually be prohibited. Plants, bulbs, shrubs, kerbings and other decorative features on graves are not allowed under the Local Authorities Cemetery Order (LACO 1977) this is to ensure the Health and Safety of the general public, for maintenance / landscaping and to allow safe access to adjacent grave spaces owners, in the short term and protect memorial foundations longer term.

In the children's burial area additional items are permitted as long as they are not more than 1 ft in height. Plants and bulbs are also allowed, but not shrubs.

In the Cremation Plot the tablet has to be of a standard design, size and material. (The permitted design includes a pot holder).

Contravention of Regulations relating to memorials

It is intended that the cemetery is a safe and pleasant environment both for employees and visitors and therefore whilst Louth Town Council sympathises with recently bereaved relatives they have a duty of care to ensure that the regulations are adhered to.

Upon identification of the contravention of any regulation but in particular the use of features, plants, bulbs, shrubs and kerbs the person(s) named on the interment forms will be contacted and allowed 28 days for the removal of the offending article(s), at the same time a notice will be placed on the interment plot. After this period of time has elapsed should the article(s) still be in place they will be removed by the cemetery staff, and a charge made at the discretion of the Town Clerk for the work incurred.

Safety Testing of Memorials

As Louth Town Council have a statutory duty of care for employees and visitors under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, routine testing of memorials will take place to ensure that no hazards relating to those regulations are identified. Should any risks be identified, this will be given a classification and the action taken accordingly which may range from the immediate laying down of the memorial to notifying the monumental mason / grave owner that action is required. In all circumstances, every effort will be taken to notify the appropriate contacts, who will be given the opportunity to correct the defect.

Memorial Seats, Trees and Shrubs

Locations in the cemetery have been identified where seats, trees or shrubs could be located in memory of an individual. Anyone wishing to do this should contact the Town Clerk.

Fees

A list of the current fees relating to the cemetery is available from the local funeral directors, monumental masons or the Town Clerk's office or website.

Further Information

Anyone who needs further details is asked to contact the Town Clerk Mrs. Lynda Phillips, at Louth Town Council, Sessions House, Eastgate, Louth, LN11 9AJ. (☎ 01507 355895) or email on clerk@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

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