



High Ham Cemetery Regulations*
High Ham Parish Council
July 2023

We want our cemetery to be a peaceful and beautiful space that families and visitors can use as a place of prayer and reflection. This set of regulations has been drawn up to allow our cemetery to remain well maintained for our community and future generations. We ask for your cooperation and adherence to them.

The Cemetery is owned and administered by High Ham Parish Council. If you have any questions about the cemetery, or the regulations, please contact the High Ham PC Clerk highhamparishcouncil@gmail.com who keeps records of burials and graves, and is responsible for the collection of cemetery fees on behalf of High Ham PC.

Access

The cemetery is open to visitors with unrestricted access. To ensure public safety, High Ham PC and its contractors, reserve the right to close or limit access to the cemetery when maintenance work is in progress.

Dogs may be taken into the cemetery on a short lead and must always be under control. Dog fouling is prohibited.

Fees

The fees are reviewed bi-annually and displayed on the High Ham Parish website www.highhamparishlife.org/parish-council/cemetery

Allocation of grave spaces

From Monday 3rd April 2023, it has not been possible to reserve burial plots within the cemetery. New graves will be allocated in rotation.

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 High Ham PC.

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

Burial

The High Ham PC Clerk 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 High Ham PC, a burial site will be allocated and marked out. 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 grave digger to protect the ground beneath excavated soil and reinstate any memorial disturbed in the course of interment. This must be done as soon as possible after the burial.

Graves must be levelled 6 months after interment, and returned if necessary, to allow contractors to mow over the graves.

Burial of cremated remains may only take place with the permission of High Ham PC.

Memorials (headstones/tablets)

No memorial or plaques may be installed without the prior permission of High Ham PC. Application must be made to the High Ham PC Clerk with full details of the proposed memorial including a drawing with dimensions, materials, inscription, and any additional decoration.

Fees shall be payable to High Ham PC before any memorial is erected.

Permission for the erection of memorials will be granted by High Ham PC as long as the work meets Health and Safety Regulations, and conforms to the specifications below:

1. Headstones are not to exceed 30" (76 cm) in height & 24" (61 cm) in width.
2. All new headstones must be positioned upon an anchor stone which should be inserted flush with the soil level. This needs to be 36" (90 cm) wide & 18" (45 cm) depth.
3. A plinth containing a flower holder, which can be up to 12" (30.5 cm) in depth from the headstone, may be attached. Separate stone/marble vases may be placed on the plinth.
4. Garden of Rest tablets to mark interment of ashes are to be 15" (38 cm) square.
5. Chippings, kerb sets or other markings around the edge of a burial, are not permitted.

The grave space remains the property of High Ham PC, but the memorial will belong to the heirs of the deceased who are responsible for the maintenance.

After the interment, a small plaque or wooden cross may be placed temporarily on the grave denoting the full name of the deceased, to be removed when a permanent memorial is installed.

If it is intended that there will be no memorial, the grave must be marked with a small plaque denoting the full name of the deceased, dates of birth and death.

Planting, flowers, wreaths

Artificial flowers and wreaths are not permitted.

Floral tributes left on a grave/Garden of Rest tablet after interment, may be removed by High Ham PC when deteriorated.

Wreaths/flowers may be placed on graves to mark Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and other religious festivals, but must be removed after 4 weeks.

The planting of trees, shrubs, roses, perennial/annual plants on a grave is not permitted. Spring bulbs are 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 High Ham PC.

Children's toys/momentoes are permitted on the grave of a child under 16 years of age, with the permission of High Ham PC.

No unprotected glass containers, tins, solar lamps, balloons, plastic or wire mesh fences, or other items of glass, metal or plastic are permitted on graves.

Maintenance

High Ham PC reserves the right to remove and dispose of any item placed in contravention of the regulations: items that may interfere with the maintenance of the cemetery; pose a risk of injury to visitors or those working in the cemetery; floral tributes, wreaths and plants that have deteriorated and become unsightly.

High Ham PC reserves the right to test headstones for safety if it is suspected they may be unsafe. Headstones that fail a safety test will be required to be repaired as soon as possible by the heirs of the deceased. If a repair is not undertaken within six months from notification, High Ham PC will take appropriate measures to ensure the headstone is made safe, the cost charged to the heirs of the deceased. If notification cannot be made due to the lack of contact details, the council will take appropriate measures to ensure the headstone is made safe.

***High Ham Parish Council will use their discretion to amend the regulations, when necessary.**

High Ham Parish Clerk: highhamparishcouncil@gmail.com