



Waltonwrays and Ingleton Cemeteries

Advice and Information on Purchasing a Grave

ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON PURCHASING A GRAVE

The ownership of a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for a grave plot not only conveys certain rights upon the owner, but also imposes a number of responsibilities.

For your information, the notes below describe briefly what the ownership rights and responsibilities are. In the event that you may require further clarification of the points raised in this document or any other information pertaining to cemetery matters, then please feel free to contact Bereavement Services for Craven District Council at the following address:

The Chapel Office
Skipton Crematorium
Carlton Road
Skipton
BD23 3BT
Tel: 01756 796118
Email: bereavementservices@cravencd.gov.uk

BURIAL RIGHTS

The Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial for a grave plot does not convey any ownership rights for the land itself. The ownerships of the cemetery land, including the grave surface, remains with Craven District Council.

The Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial is presented in the form of a written Grave Deed issued by Craven District Council on payment of the required fee. The period of the Grant lasts for either 30 or 60 years, and during that period, the person registered with the Council as being the owner of the Grant has the sole right to decide who may be interred within the grave plot. At the end of the 30 or 60 years, unless the Grant has been renewed by the Grant owner, the Burial Rights cease and the rights return solely to the District council.

The Exclusive Rights of Burial also includes a right to have a memorial placed on the grave in accordance with the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the cemetery and of an approved design and method of construction approved by the Council.

It is important to retain the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial in a safe place, as it is the only legal document held by the owner confirming their entitlement to the interment and memorial rights. It is important to notify the Council of any changes of address through the office listed on this information sheet.

At the time of the initial purchase of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial, the Grant will be registered with the Council in the name of the person given on the application form (usually signed at the Funeral Directors). Contrary to what many people believe, the possession of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial does not in itself convey entitlement to the burial and memorial rights for the grave plot. In order for the Council to keep up-to-date with the contact details it is therefore necessary for transfers to be legally undertaken in the event that the owner of the Exclusive Right

of Burial dies and this is usually done at the time of their interment, however a transfer may be done at any time providing that interested parties both present themselves to the above office at a pre-determined time.

A Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial may be purchased with the actual number of interments being decided when the first interment goes ahead (usually for two interments). However, when the grave plot is full with respect to full burials, the grave may still be utilised for the interment or strewing of cremated remains.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

The period of Exclusive Rights lasts for either 30 or 60 years or until the grave owner passes away at which point no further interments or changes to the memorial will be permitted without a current owner. It is really important, particularly if there is intention to use the grave to its maximum capacity, that the ownership rights are either transferred during someone's life time or that the ownership is bequeathed via the grave owner's last will and testament. We recommend wherever it is possible that ownership is put into joint names.

GRAVE CHOICE

Both Waltonwrays and Ingleton cemeteries are nearing maximum capacity, and we strive to meet the individual needs and requests of bereaved families.

Most graves are classed as a "lawn" type grave, which means that only a memorial is permitted at the head of the grave. We permit a small garden in front of the memorial, which CANNOT exceed 1 foot from the head of the memorial and the width of the memorial. In this area you are welcome to plant bulbs and plants, however, please ensure any plants which are planted do not become too big or large as they could endanger the stability of the memorial, as well as obscuring the inscription. Any memorials which encroach forward of this space will systematically be moved back so as to prevent a trip hazard for anyone else visiting the grave. Likewise, the planting of shrubs, plants etc along the length of the grave is also not permitted, neither is the planting of shrubs, plants either side of the headstone, as this will undermine the land beneath the headstone and/or make any memorial unsafe. Unfortunately, we are finding it necessary to restrict mowing on lawn graves where items such as plastic fences, concrete, metal surrounds, pot plants have been installed. Other items such as windmills, glass objects, solar lights and any form of stone chippings in the garden area are also not permitted and are classed as a health and safety concern and will be removed by Cemetery staff.

As with a "traditional" type grave we do permit the installation of full kerb sets around graves, in the majority of the cemetery. This will need to be installed by a Memorial Mason who is registered with ourselves and the relevant permit fee will need to be paid. Any other form of border around the grave is not permitted and will be removed by Cemetery staff.

We recognise that some families like to inter their loved ones in caskets which exceed 30" in width. This is possible in certain parts of the cemetery by purchasing a grave which can accommodate this sized coffin (an additional fee will be payable).

This also allows the family the opportunity to install a larger sized memorial (subject to permit and regulations).

Unfortunately, due to grave size restrictions, it might not be possible to choose a larger sized coffin on the second interment in a grave already purchased to accommodate a standard sized coffin.

Both Waltonwrays and Ingleton cemeteries have consecrated and unconsecrated sections available, with Waltonwrays also having a dedicated Muslim section and soon to be infant area called the Angel's garden.

All our cemeteries can be purchased for the interment of either 1, 2 or 3 coffins (which will be determined at the first interment or when the grave is purchased) and for up to 8 sets of cremated remains. Once ashes have been interred in a grave no further coffins can be placed in the grave therefore, it is important to consider if there is to be any further coffin interments in the future.

GRAVE MAINTENANCE

In the period following an interment, the grave surface will be subject to sinkage due to soil settlement. The initial settlement lasts for 6-8 months, during which time the surface will be topped up by cemetery staff as required. Once the initial settlement has taken place and the grave has been seeded/turfed (depending upon ground conditions at the time) then hopefully no further disruption will be made. However, on occasion, we have found that in future years following interment, further settlement may occur and this will be dealt with by the cemetery staff as soon as it is brought to their notice.

There may be occasions whereby work has to be carried out on an adjacent grave and whilst every care will be taken to ensure as little upset is caused to you and your family we appreciate this is a very emotive subject and offer our apologies in advance for the fact that due to the short time space normally between a funeral being arranged and it actually taking place leaves very little likelihood of us being able to let you know in advance and obviously excavations and larger numbers of people in the vicinity, especially in inclement weather can sometimes lead to disruption of adjacent areas. In the event that this does happen please rest assured the area will be returned to normal as soon as is possible, weather permitting.

GROUND MAINTENANCE

Ground maintenance staff are contractor employees and cannot accept complaints or advise you about our services.

Our mowing schedule starts from March onwards up until October. Our contractors aim to cut the grass on a weekly basis to ensure there are no cuttings left behind and to provide the maximum quality of care and maintenance. Sometimes it is necessary to miss a cut due to inclement weather including lengthy periods of hot and dry weather. All memorials are strimmed around carefully to help ensure there is no damage caused.

MEMORIALS

Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial owners are entitled to apply for permission to have a permanent memorial erected on a grave plot. Normally this application is completed and submitted on behalf of the registered grave owner, by the memorial mason contracted to carry out the necessary work.

The Council places no restriction on the design of a memorial other than considerations of public safety and decency and we actively promote individuality of memorials. However, the memorial permit must be submitted by a stonemason who is on the Council's approved list of masons permitted to work within their cemeteries. The approved list of masons is there for the public's protection, as it requires proof of insurance to carry out work and also a written agreement by the mason to work within our guidelines with regard to fixing of memorials etc.

In the event that a burial takes place after a memorial has been placed on the grave, then it is up to the Grant owner to ensure that any memorial, plants, personal mementoes etc are removed prior to the grave being opened. This will normally be arranged on your behalf by your funeral director. The Grant owner is responsible for ensuring that any memorial installed on their grave plot has been properly constructed and has been installed in accordance with the best practices of the memorial industry. It is quite reasonable for the Grant owner to expect their memorial supplier to guarantee their work for a limited period.

MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE

It is the Council's recommendation that all memorials should be insured against theft, loss or damage. Most Monumental Masons offer such insurance schemes and are pleased to advise accordingly.

The Grant owner is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the memorial and any other items placed on the grave. It is also strongly recommended that the Grant owner should have the stability and condition of the memorial checked on a regular basis. Failure to do so may result in the Grant owner being held liable for any injury or death caused to a third party if the injury or death is shown to be due to the condition of the memorial or the manner in which it has been installed.

As part of the Council's duty of care to cemetery visitors, it will, on a regular basis carry out safety inspections on memorials. In the event that any memorial is found to present a potential hazard, then the Council is duty bound to take action to reduce the risk to visitors. In the event that a memorial is unstable and liable to fall, then the memorial will be laid down onto the ground to reduce the risk of injury to others. In all cases the Council will attempt to contact the Grant owner, at their last known address to inform them of their reason for taking action. It is also recommended that the memorial inscription should be checked every few years to enable any cleaning or re-lettering work to be carried out if required and hopefully keep the memorial in a manner which will be a fitting tribute to the one(s) you have lost.

A full list of memorial masons who are registered with this Local Authority along with their contact details can be obtained from our office. When choosing a memorial it is always advisable to look at works already completed by the mason in question and also compare work as prices will fluctuate.