

## *KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL*

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING KIDLINGTON (ST MARY'S) BURIAL GROUND**

#### **General Guide**

As someone who has recently been bereaved you will want the burial to be conducted in a dignified and sensitive manner. Equally you will want any memorial you wish to have to be appropriate to your memories, and durable in the long term.

Everything in a burial ground from the memorial stones to the trees and shrubs should be a matter for care and consideration. For many people a burial ground and garden of remembrance is a place where they can return time and time again to remember loved ones, family and friends. Most people find they need the burial ground to be a quiet and thoughtful place. To ensure this is the case for Kidlington, the Parish Council has a duty to ensure the regulations about the appearance, safety and maintenance of memorials are upheld.

This is a lawn cemetery: except the Memorial Stones specified below, the entire burial area is covered in grass. The Council has a duty to ensure that individual graves and the Burial Ground as a whole remains a pleasant, dignified and safe environment for the long term. Three areas of regulation are important to protect the interests of all.

**1. Memorial stones.** Vertical memorial stones are regulated for reasons of safety and appropriateness and the regulations governing these must be followed. It is important that grass can be cut around them. Similarly fencing and other surrounds delineating the burial plots are prohibited by the regulations. They make regular maintenance extremely difficult and lead to untidy plots. Only flat stones or kerbstones flush with the ground are permitted. Where kerbstones are used, the space inside them must be grassed. Some exceptions apply to the children's area.

**2. Planting and flowers.** Only cut flowers and wreaths can be left at the graveside and must be removed when withered and dying; if not the burial ground starts to look neglected. Artificial flowers and wreaths are not permitted since they would be in conflict with the natural surroundings of trees and shrubs. Planting is not permitted. Floral tributes associated with the funeral are permitted immediately after burials.

**3. Additional objects.** A pleasant and tranquil environment also needs to be an uncluttered. **Lights, balloons, windmills, chimes, etc. are not permitted** and are not appropriate to natural surroundings; we understand that in the case of the death of a child, mourners may wish to leave other ornaments and mementos on the grave after burial. These can be left for a short period following burial. After that they tend to deteriorate due to weathering and must either be removed by the family or if not will be removed by the Council after consultation with the family.

The Parish Council will always want to work with families about these matters and is always willing to answer any questions you might have. Once again, the only purpose of having the rules and regulations is to ensure, for the sake of all Kidlington families, that the cemetery is a pleasant and tranquil environment for contemplation and remembrance, and remains so for the long term.

We also require memorial masons are NAMM/BRAMM registered before any works are requested from them.

Sarah Kearney  
Clerk of the Parish Council  
March 2025

## Rules and Regulations

1. Plans of the Burial Ground, showing the divisions into consecrated and unconsecrated portions and sections thereof are deposited at the office of the Clerk of the Council, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, where a copy of the List of Fees and all other information may be obtained upon application. In all sections a person may purchase and have an exclusive right of burial therein for 75 years. A Deed of Grant will be furnished in respect of each space purchased.
2. A person who purchases the right of burial in any section shall not convey, assign or transfer such right without the sanction of the Parish Council having first been obtained, but any person having purchased such rights shall be at liberty to inter therein a body on payment of the appropriate fee.
3. Every person who in the burial ground buries a body in a grave space shall pay to the Parish Council, as a charge for the use of the burial ground, fees in accordance with the Scale of Charges fixed by the Parish
4. Each grave space in the cemetery shall be 7ft. x 3ft. All graves shall be turfed over by the Parish Council. No permanent mounds will be allowed. In due course mounds remaining after interment will be levelled in order that mowing machinery can be operated without hindrance.
5. Memorials in the form of headstones, footstones, kerbstones and flat stones are permitted. Headstones must not exceed 3ft. in height. Flat stones or kerbstones must be flush with ground level and not exceed 7ft x 3ft. Where kerbstones are used the space inside them will be turfed by the Council. In the Garden of Remembrance sections 1, 2 and 3 flat or wedge cremation tablets only are allowed to a maximum size of 15" x 15" x 4" high. Any person wishing to erect a memorial must obtain permission from the Clerk of the Council and submit a drawing showing the form and materials, together with a copy of the inscription intended to be cut thereon for approval by the Parish Council. Every person erecting a memorial shall pay to the Parish Council for the privilege of doing so the fees in accordance with the scale set forth in the List of Fees. Fees are payable in advance. Memorials must be kept in repair by the owners. No memorials are permitted on a grave space unless the exclusive right of burial therein has been acquired
6. Flower vases must be specifically designed memorial or cemetery vases; they may not be glass because of the danger of breakage. They shall be placed at the base of any headstone or at the head of the grave and not in the middle thereof, so as not to hinder the cutting of grass. If fresh flowers are to be placed on a grave they must be in such a vase. Nothing may be planted in graves. **No additional objects, for instance pot plants, surrounds, toys, statues or solar lights, are permitted to be placed on graves.** Fresh floral tributes and fresh wreaths associated with the funeral are permitted on the grave immediately after burials. Fresh flowers and fresh wreaths will always be permitted after the headstone is erected provided they are restricted to the headstone vase or the headstone plinth.
7. In the case of any items not previously authorised, the Council reserves the right to clear and reinstate any grave following the planting of any gardens, trees and shrubs or the placing of any objects or surrounds.
8. The Burial Ground includes a dedicated Children's Area. Any permanent memorials or objects must have the Council's permission and conform to the same rules. Lights, balloons windmills and chimes are not permitted, but the Council will not seek to remove other temporary decorations and mementos for a reasonable period, and as long as they are maintained in good order and do not obstruct the general maintenance of the burial ground. Otherwise the Council will ask for them to be removed, and if necessary may take steps to remove them. In addition, children's graves may include a raised kerb the width of the headstone and not more

that 18 inches in front of it. The raised kerbstone must be of durable stone similar to the headstone, the inside to be filled with granite chips or similar; the design must be approved by the Council. The purpose of this is to permit the placing of mementos in good condition. This arrangement will only be permitted in the area defined for children's graves. All other regulations will apply to these graves.

9. Dogs will not be allowed on the burial ground, except on a leash.

10. Any person who shall wilfully destroy or injure any building, fence, gate, post, railing, wall, road or approach in connection with the Burial Ground, or destroy, or injure any tree, shrub or plant, or wilfully destroy, injure or deface any stone or inscription or do any wilful damage, or commit any nuisance in the Burial Ground is liable to forfeit to the Parish Council on summary conviction, a fine in accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Orders, 1977, or the Criminal Damages Act, 1971.

11. It is requested that dead flowers and other litter be deposited in the dustbins or space provided for the purpose. All dead flowers and wreaths will be removed if left on a grave for an unduly long time.

12. The Parish Council reserve the right from time to time to make any alterations in the foregoing rules.

For further information or any queries, please contact the Parish Council at the address below.

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**Amended: March 2025**

Sarah Kearney  
Clerk of the Parish Council  
March 2025