



Bicester Road Cemetery, Kidlington Rules and Regulations

Kidlington Parish Council owns and maintains the lawn cemetery on Bicester Road. We strive to provide an attractive and peaceful burial ground for the residents of Kidlington, Gosford and Water Eaton.

The cemeteries are managed in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 under which burial authorities are responsible for maintaining statutory burial registers and grave plans, establishing rules and regulations relating to the management of the cemeteries and the memorials permitted with them and setting fees for burials and memorials.

Kidlington Parish Council reserves the right to make alterations or additions to these Rules and Regulations and their Fees and Charges.

Eligibility

Only residents of Kidlington, Gosford or Water Eaton can be buried at Bicester Road Cemetery. The Council will consider requests from persons with a strong association to the villages such as children or parents living here or those who have moved away. In these cases, double fees will apply.

Reservations and Allocations

The allocation of a new grave space is managed by the Parish Council office; burials will only be allowed in designated areas previously laid out for burials. Graves can be dug to double depth to accommodate two full burials within a grave space with an option to inter further family ashes at a later stage.

Plans of the cemetery showing the division of consecrated and unconsecrated sections are available at the office of the Council at Exeter Hall, Kidlington. The Council keeps records of all burials in our cemeteries.

Exclusive Rights of Burial

This refers to the purchase of the exclusive right of burial in the grave space and not the purchase of the land itself. This means that you do not own the land but have the exclusive right to say who can be buried in the grave.

In accordance with The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 all burial rights are issued for a fixed period. Kidlington Parish Council currently issues them for a period of 75 years, from the date of issue, and you have the option to renew the rights at the end of this period.

When you purchase burial rights, you are issued with a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial with details of the grave number and its location. These rights cannot be transferred to another person without the sanction of the Parish Council.

Burial Procedures

When you arrive at the cemetery for a burial the grave will already be excavated and dressed with artificial grass matting. Cemetery staff will remain discreetly in the background whilst the burial takes place and, once the mourners have left the graveside, will begin to backfill the grave.

On completion the soil will be mounded and any floral tributes placed on top of the soil, a marker with the name of the deceased and the grave number will be placed at the head of the grave.

In time, following a burial, the soil will compress and the mound will reduce. Once the soil has settled we will ensure that the grave is levelled before grass seed or turf is applied.

To enable future maintenance, shrubs, trees or flowers are not permitted to be planted on any grave space nor are gravel or stone chippings, fencing or other surrounds allowed.

Please do not place vases, pots, or other objects or ornaments in the centre of the grave. You can place items at the head of the grave on the plinth, once the memorial stone is installed, or just in front of it. Items that do not conform to the rules will be removed by Council staff.

Memorials for Graves (BRAMM/NAMM registered)

Memorials stones, which must be supplied and installed by a registered Memorial Mason, can be in the form of headstones or flat stones.

The maximum overall size of a headstone in the lawn cemetery (inclusive of the foundation stone and plinth) should not exceed 3ft in height (91.44cm) and 3ft in width. (91.44cm).

Flat stones are permitted provided they are fitted flush with ground level and do not exceed the grave space of 7ft (213.36cm) x 3ft (91.44cm).

Memorials for Cremations: A flat stone or wedge

The maximum overall footprint of a cremation stone in the lawn cemetery, inclusive of the foundation stone, should not exceed 18" (45cm).

The memorial stone itself should not exceed 15" (38.1cm) x 15" (38.1cm) and the max height (rise) of 4" (10.16cm)

Additional items on graves

The Council asks that items such as flashing lights, balloons and wind chimes are not placed on graves as these disturb the tranquillity of the burial ground for other visitors.

Dogs

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times whilst in the cemetery and owners are required to be considerate of the bereaved and other cemetery users and clean up after their dog.

13 March 2025

**Sarah Kearney
Clerk, Kidlington Parish Council**