Gorstage Cemetery

Rules and Regulations

1.**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

a) These regulations shall apply in the Gorstage Cemetery, Sandiway, hereinafter referred to as the "Cemetery", provided and controlled by the Weaverham, Cuddington and Acton Bridge Cemetery Committee, herein after referred to as the "Committee" in the Borough of Vale Royal.
b) The Committee reserves the right to make additions and/or alterations to these regulations as it deems necessary, consistent with the Burial Acts.
c) Any person offending against these regulations will be excluded from the Cemetery for such periods as the Committee may determine, and in the case of a mason, this will be extended to the exclusion of their employees in connection with any work in the Cemetery.
d) All legal transactions will be made subject to these regulations, and to all others hereafter made by the Committee respecting the Cemetery, and also to the present or any other future regulations with regard to Cemeteries issued or to be issued by any competent authority.

2. DEFINITIONS In these regulations:
"grave" means a burial place formed in the ground by excavation and without any internal brickwork, stonework or other artificial lining; "private grave" means a grave in respect of which exclusive right of burial has been granted by the Committee;
"public grave" means a grave in respect of which no exclusive right of burial has been granted by the Committee;
"**monument"** means any permanent structure erected in the Cemetery as a memorial to a person or persons or to an event;
"**clerk"** means the person appointed by the Committee to see that the Cemetery regulations are carried out, to arrange for the normal maintenance of the Cemetery, to receive notices of interments, to arrange for same, to receive fees and to keep the appropriate records required by these regulations and the law;
"resident" means any person normally resident within the civil parishes of Cuddington, Weaverham or Acton Bridge, or who normally resided within the above areas within twenty four months of their death;
"**public holiday"** means all declared bank holidays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and all Sundays.

3. GRAVES PLAN: A plan of the Cemetery with the grave spaces and numbers marked thereon shall be kept at the office of the clerk and shall be available at all reasonable hours, but not on public holidays, unless in an emergency.

4. GRAVE SPACES AND GRAVE DEPTHS: All grave spaces, whether for private or public graves, must be taken in alphabetical and numerical order. No vaults will be allowed within any grave spaces.
No coffin shall be buried at less than three feet below the ground surface and no coffin shall be disturbed after burial without sanction of the Committee, and the licence, where necessary, of the competent authority. The depth to which any grave is dug must not exceed nine feet from ground surface, and after the first interment therein the depth must not be increased.

5. PRIVATE GRAVES: The Committee will sell the exclusive right of burial in a private grave on payment of the appropriate fee. A Deed of Grant will be issued to the purchaser whose name will be entered in the Cemetery records as the grave owner. Upon the expiration of the period of exclusive right the grave owner for the time being will have the option of renewal for the term and conditions then prevailing for similar grants upon application, as long as the total term does not exceed 100 years. A grave space for a private grave must be purchased prior to interment.
No private grave will be opened without production of the Deed of Grant or satisfactory evidence of ownership. Where no Deed of Grant is available an indemnity form provided by the clerk must be signed and left with the clerk. Any person succeeding under will or heirship will be furnished with a certificate of ownership on production of satisfactory evidence of title and on payment of the appropriate fee, exclusive of stamp, for the certificate. The owner shall not have the power of transferring the right of burial in any grave without the consent of the Committee, and the Deed of Grant must be produced for endorsement.

6. PUBLIC GRAVES: The Committee reserves the rights of burial in public graves and all surface rights over public graves. The charge for burial in a public grave does not include any right or privilege other than burial in a grave selected by the Committee.

7. NOTICE OF INTERMENT: At least forty eight hours' notice, excluding public holidays, of interment shall be given to the clerk. If notice of less than forty eight hours is given, it is at the discretion of the Clerk whether to accept it. The clerk is not obliged to accept notice of interment made on public holidays.

8. CERTIFICATES FOR INTERMENT: A burial certificate from the Registrar of Births and Deaths, or a Coroner's Order or Burial must be given to the clerk at the time of giving notice of interment and in any case before the funeral enters the Cemetery. All notices given to the clerk by telephone must be confirmed personally or in writing and the Committee will not be responsible for any misunderstanding arising from notices not so confirmed.

9. TIME OF FUNERALS: Funerals shall take place only between the hours of 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1 I am Saturday, excluding all public holidays: the time of the funeral being the time when the procession enters the Cemetery. Funerals, which do not arrive at the appointed time, may incur additional charges according to the circumstances arising from being late. Funerals requested at other times and days will be subject to the consent of the Committee and additional charges may be made to meet any additional costs.

10. FEES: Details of fees in respect of interments, monuments and all other works in the Cemetery are available from the clerk. Fees are subject to regular review and current fees should be confirmed with the clerk prior to interments, placing of headstones and all other works. All fees must be paid to the clerk prior to the interment, erection of a monument or other works is commenced. Residents of the three parishes are entitled to pay a reduced residents fee for the purchase of a grave or cremation plot, non-residents will be charged the higher non-resident fee. Where the deceased was a resident of the parishes for 10 or more years and left the parish within 2 years of their death the lower fee will be applied if requested. When a long term resident, as defined

above, has moved to a care home for longer than 2 years prior to death the lower fee may be applied at the discretion of the chair of the committee. In cases of doubt the higher fee will be charged and the matter taken to the full committee who have the right to refund the difference in fees if they see fit.

11. MINISTER: The person responsible for ordering the interment will be responsible for arranging the attendance of a minister of religion and for the payment of any fees to the minister.

12. VEHICLES: Vehicles accompanying funerals will be admitted into the Cemetery to the extent of the space available. All vehicles within the Cemetery shall not exceed a speed of ten miles per hour. No cycles may be ridden within the Cemetery.

13. SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROCESSIONS: Special services and processions can only take place on dates and times arranged with the clerk.

14. MUSIC: No musical instrument or band will be allowed to be played within the Cemetery except by consent of the Committee.

15 . GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMITTANCE TO THE CEMETERY: The Cemetery is open to the public daily from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. October to April and 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. May to September. The Committee reserves the right to close the Cemetery or to limit the entry of persons thereto at any time without notice.
Children under the age of fourteen years are not allowed within the Cemetery except under the care of a responsible adult. All persons shall conduct themselves with due reverence, and must not sit or stand on monuments. Smoking will not be allowed in the Cemetery within thirty yards of a funeral service, procession or interment. Dogs are not allowed in the Cemetery. The Committee shall have the power to exclude any person for good or sufficient cause in respect of these general conditions.

16. DAMAGE: Every person who shall willfully destroy or injure any building, wall or fence belonging to the Cemetery, or destroy or injure any plant therein, or who shall daub or disfigure any wall thereof or put up any bill therein or on any wall thereof, or willfully destroy or deface any monument, tablet, inscription or headstone or do any other willful damage or who shall play at any game or sports or discharge firearms (save at a military funeral) or willfully or unlawfully disturb any persons assembled for the purpose of an interment, or who shall commit a nuisance in the ground is liable to prosecution by the Committee.
All monuments admitted into the Cemetery or permitted to be erected therein shall be erected and remain at the sole risk of the owner thereof, and the Committee shall not be held responsible for any damage or breakage which may occur to the same except where any such damage is directly attributable to the negligence of the Committee or any person employed in the Cemetery by the Committee. Any person detected stealing plants or flowers will be liable to prosecution. The Committee will not accept any liability for any monuments which collapse or which cause damage to adjacent monuments due to faulty work by the masons concerned.

17:CREMATION: The interment of ashes in a grave is subject to the same notices and payment of appropriate fees as those for other interments.

18. MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS: The only monuments allowed on any grave shall be headstones. No kerbs, borderstones, tiles, slates, raised mounds, turf banking's or wooden erections, or plants, trees or bushes shall be permitted and the surface of the grave must be left level with the surface of the surrounding ground. No memorials, such as vases, of a permanent nature will be allowed on the graves if they interfere with grass cutting over the grave, and temporary memorials, such as wreaths, must be such that they can easily be moved to allow for grass cutting and other Cemetery maintenance work. One flower holder only will be allowed to remain on the concrete plinth adjacent to the headstone

19. HEADSTONES: Headstones are permitted on all graves and must not exceed a height of three feet two inches above the level of the surrounding ground, two feet six inches in width and one foot in depth from front to back. Base slabs placed on the concrete plinths provided, on which stones must be erected, must be accommodated within the overall height of three feet two inches and must not exceed 13 inches x 36 inches.
Headstones should be solid and regular shapes, made from stone with smooth or rustic/pitched edges (sides and top) and uniform size of inscription. The Committee reserve the right to refuse any application for a headstone if they do not think it fits in with the uniformity required at a grass cemetery.

20. DRAWINGS OF HEADSTONES: Drawings of every headstone to be erected must be submitted to the Committee for approval, and the Committee's endorsement must be written on the approved drawings. The appropriate fees must be paid to the clerk before the headstone is taken into the Cemetery. All headstones must have the grave space number inscribed in a legible position. All subsequent inscriptions or alterations must be approved by the Committee before being executed.

21.**REMOVAL AND RE-ERECTION OF HEADSTONES:** It is the responsibility of the owner of the headstone to re-erect a headstone after subsequent interments. Any headstone which has not been re-erected after twelve months following the last internment may be disposed of by the Committee.
The Committee reserves the right to remove any headstone which is in a dangerous condition or for the purpose of an interment, or which has been erected without the approval of the Committee.

22 . **TEMPORARY HEADSTONES AND OTHER MARKERS:** For a period not exceeding two years from the last interment a stone tablet of approved design not exceeding eighteen inches in width and fifteen inches in height and not less than two inches thick bearing only the name of the deceased and the grave number may be erected as a temporary headstone.

23. WORK ON HEADSTONES: All headstones must be completely worked before admission into the Cemetery.
Any person placing a headstone on a grave shall place it in the position indicated by the clerk and shall protect adjoining graves and property during the work and shall clean and clear the site on completion and make good any damage which may have been incurred, subject to the satisfaction of the clerk.

All monuments must be kept in good repair by the owners. No work will be allowed on monuments in the Cemetery on public holidays, without specific permission from the Committee.

24. TABLETS IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE: Tablets in black marble with gold lettering not exceeding nine inches by nine inches will be allowed in The Garden of Remembrance placed immediately above the position of any cremated remains. In addition one flower holder also in black marble will be allowed to be placed immediately behind a tablet. The position of any tablet and any flower holder is to be agreed with the clerk, and must not be cemented in place.

25. VAULTS: Only the specified plaques are to be added to the vaults. Flowers are to be placed in the flower holders only. No memorials, such as vases, of a permanent nature will be allowed on the graves if they interfere with grass cutting over the grave, and temporary memorials, such as wreaths, must be such that they can easily be moved to allow for grass cutting and other Cemetery maintenance work

25. GENERAL MAINTENANCE: The Committee will maintain the general condition of the Cemetery and will maintain the turf over all graves free of charge.

26. REGISTER OF INTERMENTS: The register of interments is kept at the office of the clerk and may be inspected and extracts made at all reasonable hours on any day except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

27. CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS: The clerk may be consulted, when available, on all Cemetery matters at all reasonable hours on any day except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Where other than notices of interment, there is a doubt as to a reasonable hour, the Committee's decision shall be final. Where the clerk is absent for more than forty eight hours from the parish, they shall appoint a deputy and place a notice on at least one Parish notice board naming the deputy, and shall also notify the chairman of the Committee of their absence.

28. GRATUITIES AND RELATED ITEMS: No persons employed by the Committee within the Cemetery may be asked to do any private work whilst so employed by the Committee, nor may their work be interrupted by any person without authority from the Committee, and no person so employed shall be offered or shall receive any gratuity for work in the Cemetery.
No person shall be allowed within the Cemetery to solicit orders for monumental or other work.

Reviewed on 01.10.2026