

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs J Hoad
The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Garden of Remembrance and the Burial Ground adjoining All Saints' Churchyard in Hartley are in the care and ownership of the Parish Council. It is the Council's desire that they shall be kept as places of beauty and comfort. A gardener tends the flower beds and grass cutting is carried out regularly.

Burial Ground

1. Grave spaces can be marked with an engraved headstone only and may incorporate a vase. All headstones, which should be of naturally quarried or carved stone, should not exceed 3 feet or 900 mm in height or exceed 2 feet 6 inches or 750 mm in width. The design of all new memorials erected in the Burial Ground shall be of a monolith design and shall be installed strictly in accordance with the recommended Code of Working Practice published by the National Association of Memorial Masons. The design and inscription on the headstone should be submitted to the Parish Council for approval.
2. All memorials removed from the Burial Ground for additional inscriptions shall be reinstated strictly in accordance with the recommended Code of Working Practice published by the National Association of Memorial Masons.
3. The remainder of the grave space will be turfed by the Burial Authority and no shrubs or trees are to be planted in the Burial Ground or within the grave space.
4. Some of the older graves have flower beds or even kerbstones for the really old ones. These are no longer permitted in accordance with the Council's policy which is for headstones only with a grass surround maintained by the Council.
5. Until the new Burial Ground is ready for use, no reservations of graves will be allowed. The right of burial within the Burial Ground will be restricted to residents of Hartley or those who have had strong connections to the village in the past.
6. Full sized graves are not available for the interment of ashes

Gardens on graves

1. It is Hartley Parish Council's policy that, after sufficient time has elapsed for natural subsidence of the earth, all graves in Hartley Burial Ground

shall be turfed. This may take between 6 to 12 months after burial. The appropriate time for turfing will be determined by Hartley Parish Council.

2. Hartley Parish Council recognises that the bereaved may take some comfort from tending gardens on the graves of their loved ones and therefore will allow gardens to be maintained on graves provided they comply with the following rules and until such time as Hartley Parish Council consider it appropriate for the grave to be turfed:
 - (a) The extent of the garden and any planting shall not exceed the grave space.
 - (b) No fencing, edging or kerbing around the graves shall be permitted, as they may cause a trip hazard for visitors, contractors and Council employees.
 - (c) Bulbs, bedding plants and perennial plants with a maximum height of 18 inches may be planted in the garden of the graves. Where graves have been turfed, bulbs may be planted under the turfed area of the grave. Shrubs shall not be permitted.
 - (d) No chippings, decorative stones, slabs or pebbles shall be spread on the surface of the grave as they can be spread onto the surrounding grass and may damage cutting equipment and cause a hazard to visitors, contractors and Council employees. Bark chippings shall be permitted on the surface of the grave.
 - (e) Glass containers, vases or ornaments shall not be placed on the grave, as broken glass can cause a hazard to visitors, contractors and Council employees.
 - (f) Small containers may be placed on the garden area of the grave, but may not be placed on the grass as it causes damage to the grass and impedes the grass cutting equipment. Total height and spread of the container and plant shall not exceed 18 inches.
 - (g) Any Christmas wreathes or other such tributes laid on the grave must be placed within the grave space and shall be removed by the end of January, after which time if the items have not been removed Hartley Parish Council will make arrangements for them to be removed and disposed of.
 - (h) Artificial flowers, plastic wrappers or any other ornaments/adjournments whatsoever shall not be laid on the grave or placed on the memorial, as in windy conditions they can litter the burial ground and their disposal may not be environmentally friendly.
 - (i) All grass borders around the grave shall be kept neat and tidy.

- (j) The surface of the garden shall be kept neat and tidy, and weed free.
3. Hartley Parish Council reserves the right to remove any garden which contravenes the above rules 2 (a) to 2(j) inclusive and the surface the grave with turf.
4. All dead flowers, prunings, cuttings, litter, etc. shall either be removed from the burial ground or disposed of in the bins provided.
5. If a garden becomes neglected reasonable efforts will be made to notify the grave owner and a reasonable period of time allowed for the grave owner to rectify the defects. If the garden is not restored to the satisfaction of Hartley Parish Council arrangements will be made for the garden to be removed and the surface of the grave to be turfed.
6. Hartley Parish Council shall not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of any items/plants placed in the garden or on grave.

Garden of Remembrance

1. The Garden of Remembrance is looked after by our gardener. Inside All Saints' Church in the chancel is the Book of Remembrance. Flowers in memory of loved ones will always be welcomed there or may be left on the plinth adjacent to the Garden, and must not be left in any part of the Garden.

The Council is conscious of the need to preserve the area as a place of quietness, dignity and beauty and is active in carrying out this policy.

Any matters concerning the Garden of Remembrance and the Burial Ground should be addressed to the Clerk to Hartley Parish Council at the address given.

Approved by the Parish Council on 21 July 2000
Amendments approved by Council on 5th April 2004, 14th June 2004, 8th
November 2004 and 12th April 2010