

Purchase of Exclusive Right to a Grave

The exclusive right of burial must be purchased; the exclusive right is issued for a period of 100 years from the date of purchase. Exclusive right of burial will be recorded in the Register of Purchased Graves; a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial will be prepared and given to the grave purchaser.

Exclusive right to a grave - the owner has the right to commission a monumental mason to erect a memorial on the grave after six months from the interment or if the ground has not subsided such longer period as may be necessary, to the standard within Blunham Parish Council's Rules; or the family may, after six months, place a monument of their own design, which again must comply with the Council's Rules. The Council will have the right to remove the monument if it is not of a good standard or is dangerous in any way. Bedding plants etc. planted by family or grave attendees, will not be maintained by any cemetery staff. The family should be mindful, when bedding plants are planted, that other members of the family may request to be interred in that grave at a later date.

No further burial within a grave can proceed without the written permission of the owner of the exclusive right. In the case of the death of an owner of the exclusive right, and if the grave is not bequeathed by a Will, it is assumed that the ownership is passed to the next of kin.

The exclusive right of burial does not divest the Parish Council of any of its rights and responsibilities as owners of the land. It should be noted, however, that the Parish Council retains control over the surface of the grave, where there is no full memorial set, and can select to maintain the surface itself or pass responsibility to the owner of the exclusive right.

Certification

Submission of the Interment Notice is required by the Council a minimum of two clear working days prior to the date of the funeral. The Interment Notice is regarded as a binding contract for the work and cost involved.

The Registrar's Certification or Coroner's Order for Burial, held by the Funeral Director or family member, must be given to the Clerk prior to the funeral. The funeral cannot proceed until an Order or Certificate is given to the Council's representative (Clerk).

Where a burial of cremated remains is to be undertaken, a Certificate of Cremation will be required by the Authority, together with an Application for Burial. A religious or nondenominational secular service can be arranged at a burial of cremated remains, if required. The spreading of cremated remains over a family grave must have the permission of the owner of the exclusive right.

Burial Operations

Interment in an existing grave - when the provisional booking is made, the exclusive right of burial to the grave should be provided. The Burial Register is checked to identify the grave reference number and the family should visit the grave to check the correct grave number is given. At this stage, ownership of the exclusive right of burial must be established.