

Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council Ash Burial Ground Regulations

1. The burial ground has reached capacity and no new grave spaces are available. Burials may only take place in existing graves where the owner of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial is entitled to a further interment and sufficient space remains within the grave.
2. The holder of the Executive Grant of Right of Burial determines who may be interred in an existing grave with sufficient space. Where the person to be interred was not resident within the parish, the non-resident interment fee will be applied.
3. Coffins/Caskets wider than 36 inches can only be accommodated by prior approval.
4. Notice of intended burial shall be given, on the Parish Council's official form, to the Clerk to Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council. Fees shall be paid at the time of giving notice.
5. The Registrar's Certificate for Disposal or the Coroner's Order for Burial shall be produced to the Clerk.
6. Existing graves approved for further interment shall be prepared by the Parish Council's approved groundsmen. Those arranging the funeral should make arrangements direct with the groundsmen. The Parish Council's fees do not include the preparation of the ground, or of the services of the Minister who will conduct the funeral.
7. A temporary marker such as a wooden cross may be erected without permission and we encourage all grave owners to mark their grave space for ease of identification. Such temporary markers must be removed on installation of a permanent memorial.
8. When the earth over a grave has settled, those who arranged the burial shall cause the grave to be levelled and covered with fresh turf, except for any part covered with an approved memorial. The surface of the grave shall be left level with the surrounding ground. The Parish Council may at their discretion level any grave mound 12 months after the latest burial.
9. Details of any memorial, including materials and any proposed inscription, shall be given, on the Parish Council's official form, to the Clerk of the Parish Council. Fees shall be paid at the time of giving notice.
10. No memorial shall be more than 91cm in height x 76cm in width (36 x 30 inches). Flat stones or kerbstones shall not exceed 182cm in length (71 inches). All memorials shall be fitted to the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of Working Practice and British Standard BS8415, dowel fixing and the concrete base made level with the ground and does not sit above ground.
11. All memorials shall be made of white, grey or black naturally quarried and carved stone. All lettering shall be of a neutral colour. Loose receptacles will not be permitted as they can become a hazard. No chippings decorative stones 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. Memorials shall not be erected until a minimum of three months after the burial, to allow the earth over the grave to settle.
12. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse permission for a memorial, or a proposed inscription, if, in the opinion of the Parish Council, the design or inscription is not in accordance with these regulations or may cause offence to a visitor to the Burial Ground.
13. Monumental masons are asked to inscribe the number of the grave in an inconspicuous style on the back of the memorial. The name of the mason may also be inscribed, on the same line, in small letters. The lettering should be no greater than one inch in height and no more than six inches above the ground on the reverse of the memorial.

14. The owners of memorials remain responsible for their maintenance. If a memorial becomes damaged or defaced the Parish Council may clean, repair or remove it at their discretion and at the relatives' cost, but will take reasonable steps to inform the relatives of the deceased before doing so. If a memorial is in a dangerous state, the Parish Council may take reasonable steps to make it safe without notice.
15. The only permanent permitted plants are bulbs – other plants including flowers and pot plants (no more than 1ft in height) may be placed on the graves and will be removed by the grounds man when they are either dead or have exceeded the height regulation. If a grave becomes neglected, every effort will be made to contact the Grant of Right owner and a reasonable period of time allowed for the grave owner to restore the grave, following which the Council may, at its discretion, clear the grave of any plants or memorial and grass over it.
16. Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid directly on a grave or placed in a vase which forms part of an approved memorial, but must not extend beyond the boundary of the grave. The Parish Council may remove flowers on graves when they appear to be withered. If additional floral tributes are introduced at a burial, which cannot be placed on the grave, they must not obstruct pathways or be placed on any other grave and those arranging the burial must arrange for the additional floral tributes to be removed from the burial ground and taken away after no more than two weeks. Where the parish council removes flowers or tribute and a cost is incurred, this cost will be recharged to the grant of right holder.
17. No artificial flowers or other objects, not forming part of an approved memorial, may be placed in the Burial Ground. If they are so placed, the Parish Council may arrange for their removal.
18. No trees or shrubs may be planted on any grave or elsewhere in the Burial Ground. If any have been planted or are growing the Parish Council may arrange for their removal.
19. The Burial Ground Register may be searched, by arrangement with the Clerk to the Parish Council, on payment of the prescribed fee.
20. Neither burial nor the erection of a memorial confers any right of ownership upon the relatives of the deceased in any part of the Burial Ground. The whole Burial Ground is vested in the Parish Council.
21. These Regulations take effect on 17 September 2026, and supersede any previous Regulations issued by the Parish Council. The Parish Council may amend these Regulations at any time.

Access to the burial ground is by narrow country lane with limited parking.

I have read the above rules and agreed to abide by them.

Signed: Date.....

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Full Name (Please print)