



# North Petherton Town Council

## Cemetery Rules & Regulations

**These Rules & Regulations have been made by North Petherton Town Council for the management of the Cemetery (Heathfield Cemetery, Old Road, North Petherton) and to maintain its appearance as a place of peace and tranquillity.**

### **1. Notice of Interment**

Notice of interment of a body or ashes must be given to the Town Clerk by the Funeral Director at least two clear days, excluding Sundays, prior to the interment.

### **2. Hours of Interment**

Bodies may be interred in the Traditional and Lawn sections between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.30 pm from 1<sup>st</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> September and between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm from 1<sup>st</sup> October until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Times for the interment of ashes, in existing grave or in the Garden of Rest, are at the discretion of the Cemetery Contractor in liaison with the Minister of Religion and Funeral Director concerned.

There may be burials or interment of ashes on Saturdays, Sundays and Public and Bank Holidays.

### **3. Fees**

All fees must be paid to the Town Clerk on giving notice of interment of a body or ashes. A separate table of fees is published and is displayed on the Cemetery notice board.

### **4. Location of Grave Spaces and Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial**

The selection of the place of interment or purchase of an Exclusive Right of Burial is, in all cases, to be approved by the Town Council.

### **5. Depth of Graves**

Every grave shall be a minimum of 1.5 metres (5 feet) in depth.

### **6. Burials**

Burials will not be allowed in the Chapel, within 3 metres (10 feet) of the Chapel walls or within 0.6 metres (2 feet) of the boundary fences.

### **7. Gravestones, Monuments, Tablets or Memorials**

Gravestones, monuments, tablets or memorials of any kind can only be erected or placed on plots where an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted and are subject to the prior approval of the Town Council.

Photos and QR codes may be incorporated into the memorial.

A copy of every proposed inscription and a drawing showing the form and dimensions of every memorial to be erected must be sent to the Town Clerk at least ten days prior to installation and accompanied by the correct fee.

Installation of, and works to, gravestones, memorials etc. should be arranged so that they do not impact on burials and interments taking place in the cemetery. At least two days notice should therefore be given to the Council before any such works take place.

Gravestones shall be installed in accordance with NAMM specifications.

**A notice setting out what can be placed on graves in each Section of the Cemetery is published separately and is appended.**

### **8. Planting of Trees & Shrubs**

Planting of trees and shrubs in the Cemetery is subject to the prior approval of the Town Council and any tree or shrub planted without approval will be removed. No planting of any kind is permitted in the Lawn and Garden of Rest sections and any plants will be removed.

### **9. Flower Vases & Containers**

No makeshift containers or domestic vases shall be used for flowers and any such containers will be removed.

#### **9(a)**

In the Lawn section flowers and temporary vases are allowed to remain on graves for a period of six months whilst the soil settles. After this the grave is levelled and sown with grass seed by the Cemetery Contractor. Once the grave has been seeded only a standard Lawn-type memorial stone, as specified elsewhere, may be placed on the grave.

### **10. Cremation with a Religious Service**

When a cremation has taken place with a religious service a Minister may be in attendance at the interment of ashes.

### **11. Maintenance of Graves**

Maintenance of graves can be arranged. Requests for this service should be made in writing to the Town Clerk.

### **12. Dogs**

With the exception of Guide Dogs, dogs are not allowed in the Cemetery.

### **13. Damage**

Persons causing damage to graves, monuments, kerbstones, memorials, boundary walls, fencing, pathways, buildings or grass will be liable for the full  
Updated Feb 2025 (to incorporate changes agreed by General Purposes Committee September 2024)

cost of repair or reinstatement. The Town Council can accept no liability for damage.

#### **14. Amendment of Rules & Regulations**

These rules and regulations are subject to amendment by the Town Council without notice.

#### **15. Ornaments & Decorations**

No additional ornament or decoration shall be placed on or fixed to any part of any grave, monument or memorial whether temporarily or permanently in any section of the Cemetery. Any such ornament or decoration will be removed. Examples of ornaments or decorations include, windmills, wind chimes, garden and other ornaments such as figures, models and statuettes. This list is not intended to be comprehensive but is included to provide guidance. As with all the rules and regulations made by the Town Council for the management of the Cemetery the purpose of these prohibitions is to preserve its peace, tranquillity and dignity.

#### **16. Precedence**

The existence in the Cemetery of graves, tombstones or monuments that do not comply with these rules and regulations cannot be regarded as a precedent.

## **Contact**

**Town Clerk:** Miss Joy Norris

**Postal address:** North Petherton Town Council, The Town Council Office, the Small Hall, North Petherton Community Centre, Fore Street, North Petherton TA6 6QA

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## LAWN SECTION

In this section of the Cemetery only standard “Lawn-type” monuments or gravestones not exceeding 1 metre (3 feet 6 inches) in height are allowed. These may incorporate one or two vases in the base.

Photos and QR codes may be incorporated into the memorial.

In this section of the Cemetery special attention is drawn to rules 7, 8, 9, 9(a), 11, 12 & 15.

In the Lawn Section of the Cemetery the monuments are arranged in rows, back-to-back. This is a common practice in cemeteries including those managed by the War Graves Commission.

Gravestones are monuments and are therefore not necessarily “headstones” placed at the head of the grave in this section of the Cemetery. This point was clarified with reference to The Ven. The Archdeacon of Taunton in 2001.

If you have any doubt about these rules please contact the Town Clerk, before the funeral if possible. The Town Clerk’s name and contact details are given on page 3 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations above.

## TRADITIONAL SECTION

**Please note that all plots in the traditional section have been allocated.**

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In this section of the Cemetery standard grave furniture is allowed as follows:

- (a) A flat stone not exceeding 2.5 metres by 1.25 metres (8 feet by 4 feet);
- (b) A footstone not exceeding 0.5 metres (1 foot 6 inches) in height;
- (c) Kerb or border stones enclosing a space not exceeding 2.5 metres by 1.25 metres (8 feet by 4 feet);
- (d) Kerb or border stones enclosing a space exceeding 2.5 metres by 1.25 metres (8 feet by 4 feet);
- (e) A vase not exceeding 0.3 metres (15 inches) in height incorporated into (c) or (d) above;
- (f) An open book or tablet incorporated into (c) or (d) above.

Photos and QR codes may be incorporated into the memorial.

In this section of the Cemetery special attention is drawn to rules 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 & 15.

If you have any doubt about these rules please contact the Town Clerk, before the funeral if possible. The Town Clerk's name and contact details are given on page 3 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations above.

# **GARDEN OF REST SECTION**

In the Garden of Rest section of the Cemetery only standard plaques (or memorial tablets) and vases (including double vases) are allowed and no other ornament is permitted.

Photos and QR codes may be incorporated into the plaque / tablet / vase.

Vases and plaques must be purchased through the Town Council. Inscriptions are subject to the Town Council's approval.

In this section of the Cemetery special attention is drawn to rules 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 & 15.

If you have any doubt about these rules please contact the Town Clerk, before the funeral if possible. The Town Clerk's name and contact details are given on page 3 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations above.