

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT)
REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF CEMETERIES
(April 2006)

Interpretation

1. (a) 'The District' means Stroud District Council who own the Cemetery situated at Brimscombe and prescribe these Regulations.
- (b) 'The Council' means Stroud District Council who manage the Cemetery situated at Brimscombe.
- (c) 'The Cemeteries' means the Cemetery situated at Brimscombe.
- (d) The contact is the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture at:

Council Offices
Ebley Mill
Westward Road
Stroud
Glos GL5 4UB

Tel: (01453) 754339
Fax: (01453) 754409
E-mail: Karen.toole@stroud.gov.uk
- (e) 'The Supervisor' is the person appointed by the Council to be in day to day charge of the Cemetery at Brimscombe.

Hours of Opening and Closing of Cemetery

2. (a) The Cemetery is open to the public as follows:

1 st April – 30 th September	8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.
1 st October – 31 st March	8.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
- (b) The Cemetery is not locked but the Council would wish the above hours to be adhered to.

Orders for Interments

3. (a) All orders for interments must be given on the prescribed forms obtainable from the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture at the above address, on which the particulars required must be clearly stated. Responsibility for any error will rest with the person signing the prescribed form.
- (b) Orders for interments must be placed to allow three clear working days before the interment.

Payment of Fees

4. All fees must be paid to or at the offices of the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture at the above address, before the interment can take place.

Hours for Interments

5. The Cemetery is open for interments every weekday except Christmas Day, Good Friday, Bank Holidays or statutory public holidays from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. and in exceptional circumstances on Saturdays when the hours will be from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The time stated for an interment is to be that when the cortege arrives at the Cemetery and it is requested that punctuality is observed.

Ministers

6. For all burial services the relatives or friends of the deceased shall appoint the Minister subject to the regulations of the District.

Registrar's Certificate for Disposal

7. The Registrar's Certificate for Disposal or in cases where an inquest has been held, the Coroner's Order for Burial, must be delivered to the Council three working days before the burial and a copy must be handed to the Supervisor or person appointed by him when the funeral enters the Cemetery. In the case of a stillborn child, a certificate in accordance with the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1926 will be required. No burial will be allowed except on production of such Certificate or Order.

Plans and Registers

8. Plans showing grave spaces and their respective sections will be kept at the office of the Council and registers of the burials both in the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the grounds will also be kept at the Council and shall be open for inspection during normal office hours. A search fee laid down in the appropriate scale of charges will be payable in respect of this service.

Re-Opening of Private Graves

9. (a) No grave or vault in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased will be opened without the written consent of the owner.
(b) The purchaser or owner for the time being of the Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave space shall not dispose of such Right without the written consent of the Council having first been obtained and every transfer of such Right shall be prepared by the Council at the expense of the applicant.

Exhumations

10. (a) After interment, no body can be removed unless there shall have been previously left at the office of the Council every faculty or licence required by law.
(b) The fee, which would be chargeable by the Council if the body or urn or casket was about to be interred instead of removed and any other fee or fees that may be payable, will be doubled in every case of exhumation and must be paid in advance.

Extraordinary Processions

11. (a) No extraordinary funeral procession will be permitted to enter the Cemetery except by permission of the Clerk to the Council or the Supervisor who may exclude from the Cemetery or any section thereof any person or persons not being mourners or officially connected with such funeral.
- (b) Parties having charge of a military funeral or funeral procession connected with societies or public bodies are required to make such arrangements with the Clerk to the Council as will ensure the protection of the Cemetery from damage.
- (c) No band or music will be allowed to play in the Cemetery save at a military funeral or by special consent in writing of the Clerk to the Council.

Admission to the Cemeteries

12. (a) All persons admitted to the Cemetery will be subject to the orders and control of the Supervisor. Any person infringing these Regulations may be removed from the Cemetery.
- (b) No person shall cause, suffer, or allow any dog belonging to him, or in his charge, to enter or remain in the Cemetery unless such dog is held under proper control by means of a leash and it is a statutory offence to allow a dog to foul in the Cemetery under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 unless the faeces are removed forthwith.

Climbing upon Walls, etc.

13. No person shall sit, stand or climb upon or over any memorial or palisading, wall, fence or building belonging to the Cemetery.

Shrubs

14. (a) Shrubs or plants may not be planted or placed on any grave except with the approval of the Supervisor. The Council reserves the right to prune, cut down, dig up or remove any of the shrubs, plants, flowers or flowerpots at any time when, in their opinion, the pruning or removal is necessary or desirable.
- (b) Dead flowers, wreaths, weeds or other matter taken off graves or vaults must be deposited only in refuse bins, which are provided for the purpose by the Council.

Receptacles

15. Only receptacles expressly manufactured to hold flowers shall be placed upon any grave. The Supervisor shall be at liberty to remove from a grave any article not complying with this regulation or any moveable article which has become unsightly and any flowers which shall be withered or dead.

Erection of Memorials

16. (a) No monument, gravestone, tablet or inscription may be erected or placed except over a vault or grave in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased and unless such monument, gravestone, tablet or inscription has been approved by the Council.
- (b) Before the erection of any memorial may be proceeded with, application must be made to the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture, the printed form obtainable from the Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, showing full dimensions, specification including sub-base support details, pin sizes for securing headstone to base, use of cement glue to all stone joints (all as required in the general specification provided) proposed inscription and description of the stone, together with a sketch of the proposed memorial. The application must be forwarded to the offices of the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture for approval and fees must be paid before the admission of the memorial to the Cemetery.
- (c) The written permission of the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture must be produced to the Supervisor before anyone may bring into or to take out of the Cemetery ANY memorial or any part thereof.
- (d) No memorial shall be altered or interfered with after it has been erected according to the designs submitted to and approved by the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture, nor shall any additional inscription be cut thereon unless an application in writing has been made to and permission obtained from the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture.
- (e) A vase exceeding in size 0.30 metres in height, 0.25 metres in width, 0.25 metres in length OR bearing a person inscription will be regarded as a headstone and the appropriate fee will be charged.
- (f) Persons employed in the erection of memorials, cutting of inscriptions, cleaning of memorials, headstones or otherwise, will only be allowed to work in the Cemetery between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. No fixing lettering or cleaning of memorials will be allowed on any Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, Bank Holiday or statutory public holiday.
- (g) No hewing or dressing of stone will be permitted in the Cemetery except with the consent of the Supervisor. All material must be prepared and ready for fixing before being brought into the Cemetery.
- (h) Persons employed by the purchaser of the Right to erect or fix any memorial shall perform their work to the satisfaction of the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Culture and also at the cost of the purchaser to remove all rubbish and materials and make good all injury which in the progress of the work may be done to any other vault or grave or to any tomb or memorial or to any portion of the property of the Council or any other injury whatsoever.
- (i) All materials, gravestones and monuments must be conveyed into the Cemetery by hand or on vehicles having tyres of not less than 0.1 metre in width.

- (j) In all cases where there is a memorial on a grave which is required to be re-opened, the person making the funeral arrangements must engage a mason or other appropriate person to remove it three working days beforehand to afford the Council the requisite time for excavation. The Council undertakes no responsibility in connection with such removal.
 - (k) All monuments, gravestones, vaults and places of burial are to be kept in good order and repair at the expense of the respective owners thereof or of the Rights of Burial therein.
 - (l) The Council reserves the right to remove or to require the owner to remove any monument or gravestone which, in the opinion of the Council, has become unsafe or dilapidated or is not kept in proper repair. The Council will not be responsible for any accidents to monuments or gravestones occasioned by any cause including storm.
 - (m) Every monument, headstone, etc must bear the number and section of the grave over which it is to be erected, cut clearly on the back at the expense of the person erecting same.
 - (n) Only durable natural stone shall be used in the construction of memorials except that memorials made of other less durable materials such as teak or similar hardwoods may be used subject to the usual procedures and to the Council's reserved right to remove the memorial when its condition has, in the opinion of the Council, deteriorated below acceptable standards.
 - (o) If the owner of any monument, gravestone, etc fails within six months after the re-closing of the grave to effect the re-erection of such monument, gravestone, etc then the Council shall be entitled to have the work carried out at the cost of the owner. The Council may, as an alternative, if they so decide, remove the stonework from the grave.
17. It is the policy of the District that the Cemetery be in future laid out and maintained on a lawn basis and with the exception of graves in existing non-lawn sections, new graves will be permitted to only have a headstone or cross, and vase, etc as detailed in the scale of charges and with the remainder of the plot turfed flat and level with surrounding area.

Notice is drawn to the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 paragraph 18, relating to offences in cemeteries.

Offending against the Regulations

18. Any person offending against these Regulations may during the pleasure of the Council be prohibited from entering or working within the Cemetery in any manner whatever and for such period as they may in each instance from time to time determine.

Alterations to Regulations

19. The District reserves the right to make alterations in the foregoing Regulations consistent with the Burial Acts, and all grave spaces are sold and memorials erected subject to these Regulations and any others that may be made by the District; and subject also to the present or future Regulations issued or to be issued with regard to the Cemetery by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR).

Note:

Notice is drawn to the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 paragraph 18, relating to offences in cemeteries.