

Bidborough Parish Council

CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS: As of 14th September 2023

1) Design of Headstones:

Simple headstones not more than 4' (1200mm) high, 3' (900mm) wide and 6" (150mm) thick, nor less than 2'6" (750mm) high, 1'8" (500mm) wide and 3" (75mm) thick.

Note: A base forming an integral part of the design of the headstone is permitted and may, if thought appropriate, incorporate a vase for flowers, such vase being so arranged that the top of it is level with or below the surface of the base. A base shall not project more than 2" (50mm) beyond the headstone in any direction, except where a vase is incorporated when the base may extend a maximum of 8" (200mm) in front of the headstone. The base itself shall be securely fixed on a foundation slab (preferably of concrete) which shall be fixed flush with or just below the surface of the turf so that a mower may pass freely over it. The foundation slab shall extend beyond the base by between 3 and 5" (75 - 125mm) all round.

Crosses not more than 4'6" (1350mm) high, 2' (600mm) wide and 4" (100mm) thick. No cross shall stand on more than two steps, the step, or the lower of two steps, shall measure no more than 2' (600mm) from side to side and 1' (300mm) from front to back. A cross shall stand on a suitable foundation flush with or below the surface of the turf.

Horizontal ledgers either flush with the turf or raised not more than 9" (225mm) above a base, which should be flush with the turf and extend not less than 3" (75mm) all round the ledger. Inclusive measurements shall be not more than 7' (2,100mm) by 3' (900mm)

As an alternative to a headstone, natural stone vases or urns measuring not more than 12" x 8" x 8" (300 x 200 x 200mm).

No monument shall include any kerbs, railings, plain or coloured chippings, figured statutory, pictorial etchings or photographic representations, or be in the form of an open book or a heart.

No Tree, Shrub or Plant shall be allowed upon any Grave space.

2) Materials:

Monuments must be in weathering natural stone or slate, or hard wood. Care should be taken to see that stones blend with the setting of the church, churchyard and locality. Stones shall not be mirror polished nor polished beyond a good smooth finish.

No monument shall be of red, black or dark grey granite, marble, synthetic stone or plastic.

3) Inscriptions:

The Christian and surname of the deceased should be given, with age and date (or year) of death or, of birth and death. The terms of any epitaph should be approved by the Parish Council.

No advertisement or trade mark shall be inscribed on any monument but the name of the mason may be inscribed low down on the side of verse or reverse of the stone in unpainted and unleaded letters no larger than half inch (15mm) in height.

4) Garden of Remembrance:

The allocated area for the committal of cremated remains shall be 2 feet x 2 feet (600mm x 600mm)

Wooden caskets or biodegradable boxes containing cremated remains must be located centrally within the area designated and be buried with the top of the casket/box a minimum of 18 inches (450mm) below ground level unless it is intended to bury two caskets/boxes in the same plot.

Standard memorial plaques of 18 inches by 15 inches (450 mm x 380mm) only will be permitted within the Garden of Remembrance and a copy of every inscription, i.e. a complete copy of the proposed finished memorial plaque must be submitted to the Parish Council for approval prior to work being commissioned. If required a small hole for flowers can be incorporated within the plaque in the top left hand side.

The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any inscription on the grounds that it may cause offence.

No additional 'colouring/gilding/silvering will be accepted on any plaque i.e. all lettering must be carved from the original material. **However, we recommend that the wording is etched in either black or gold as some stones when wet make the wording not legible.**

The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any plants which are not tended which have therefore become overgrown and unruly. The garden will be inspected according to these criteria on a bi-annual basis.

5) Solar Light Decorations Bottles & Cans:

No type of Solar light decoration is permitted on any grave or memorial plot. The placing of any Bottle or Can which may or many not have been consumed at a grave or memorial is not permitted. These are easily broken and become a hazard not just to visitors but to those who look after the church yard. Any such item will be removed.

6) Eligibility & Cost:

a) All parishioners who die within the Civil Parish of Bidborough are eligible for a burial plot or a plot in the Garden of Remembrance

b) Persons who live outside the Civil Parish but within the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Lawrence, Bidborough are eligible for space for ashes in the Garden of Remembrance

c) Persons who lived outside the Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes of Bidborough but were on the St. Lawrence Church Electoral Roll at the time of death are eligible for space for ashes in the Garden of Remembrance

d) At the discretion of the Parish Council, the Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery will also be available for the burial and/or cremated remains of persons who have in the past been resident in the Civil Parish of Bidborough or on the St. Lawrence Church Electoral Roll.

However please note this cannot be guaranteed.

A review of charges was undertaken and it was unanimously agreed that the following charges will apply:

- Burial Plot £50.00 (Eligibility a)
- Garden of Remembrance Plot £50.00 (Eligibility a)
- Garden of Remembrance and/or Grave Plot £100.00 (Eligibility b, c, d)
- e) **All ashes plots incur an additional £50.00 preparation charge.**

7) Alteration to Regulations

The Parish Council reserves the right to amend these Regulations from time to time as is considered fit.

8) Contractors & Preparation of Graves:

In view of the geological problems of Bidborough Cemetery the Parish Council would nominate the following contractor who has offered a very reliable and efficient service to date to carry out this specialised work: Please also note the time to prepare graves could be expensive.

MDH Horticultural Contractors who can be contacted on 01892 525375 and email: mdhhorticulturalcontractors@outlook.com

9) Payments:

Cost of Ashes plots (including preparation) and/or Grave plots are payable to the following:

Cheques Payable to Bidborough Parish Council

Or Bank Transfer to the following:

Bidborough Parish Council

Sort Code 30-98-77

Account No 01486651

Cost for the preparation of Graves are invoiced directly by the grave contractor to the Funeral Director for passing on to the deceased family and/or solicitor acting on their behalf.