

Cemetery Regulations - Cowpen Cemetery -

Please note these regulations need to be kept in a safe place

For ease of maintenance in Council run Cemeteries and to avoid any possible distress to visitors, would you please note and adhere to the following regulations: -

1. All Cemeteries will be open to the public daily: 8.30 a.m. until 9.00 p.m., or dusk, whichever is the earlier.
2. Dogs accompanying visitors to the grounds should be on a leash at all times, and all dog faeces left by their pet must be cleaned up before leaving the cemetery, with the exception of a guide dog accompanying a blind person.
3. The Council is responsible for grass cutting and any rose borders, therefore, no part of the grave should be planted with flowers, trees, shrubs, gravel etc. which would impede maintenance operations.
4. Kerbstones, iron, concrete, stone, wood or plastic railings, fences or other types of edging for enclosing graves will not be permitted on any lawn sections.
5. Permanent mounding of graves shall not be permitted, and the surface level of graves shall be that of the surrounding turf levels.
6. Children under 12 years of age will not be allowed within the Cemetery, except under the care of a responsible person.
7. Visitors are requested to assist in keeping the Cemetery in good order by keeping the roads and paths clear. Please Park in designated parking bays. Do not block roadways.
8. All rubbish or waste flowers must be deposited in the receptacles provided.
9. No person shall enter or leave the Cemetery other than through one of the authorized means of entrance.
10. No person shall remove or take any articles from the Cemetery without the permission of the Council.
11. No demonstrations of any kind shall be permitted within the Cemetery without the consent of the Manager.
12. No playing of musical instruments or any sound reproducing apparatus shall be permitted within the Cemetery without permission from the Council.
13. No person shall obstruct or interfere with employees of the Council at their duties.
14. No person is allowed access to any building or enclosures in the Cemetery, except on lawful business.
15. The Council may close a Cemetery, or any part thereof, to the public for such time as they may consider necessary or expedient.
16. On the day of the funeral, flowers and wreaths may be placed on the grave in which a burial takes place. The flowers and wreaths will be allowed to remain for a period of 14 days, after which council staff may remove them.

No kerbstones are allowed on any grave. Any unauthorized kerbstones will be removed and stored for two months at our depot. If not collected within this two-month period, they may be disposed of at the Council's discretion. No decorative fencing is to be erected around any grave.

Memorials (being headstones or fixed vases) will only be allowed subject to the following regulations. An application from a memorial mason, must be made to the Council to erect any memorial on a grave, and the appropriate fees paid – please see current fees & charges on the Northumberland County Council website –

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Registration/Deaths/Crem.aspx>

17. To advise the deed holder that, in certain cemeteries, a minimum period of 6 months must be allowed after the interment date before a memorial can be erected, to allow for grave settlement.
18. No headstones or other memorial shall be erected on a grave space unless a right to do so has been granted in respect of such grave space.
19. Owners of memorials are strongly advised to seek information on the possibility of insurance cover against theft or damage to memorials through vandalism, severe weather conditions or accidental damage.
20. A headstone or other memorial shall not be erected, nor shall any inscription be inscribed on any tombstone or other memorial without the details thereof being approved by the Council.
If any headstone or other memorial is erected or an inscription is inscribed without such approval or made in violation of these Regulations, the headstone or other memorial or inscription may be removed at any time by the Council without notice.
21. Every purchased grave memorial must be kept in repair at the expense of the owner. Neighbourhood Services administration section shall make reasonable efforts to communicate with grave owners by giving written notice by post to the owner when repairs are needed. If the owner does not make such repairs within six months after the issue of such a notice, the council shall be at liberty to remove or lay flat the headstone. In the event of a memorial being in a dangerous condition, immediate action will be taken.
22. Where the Council are entitled to serve a notice under these Regulations but are unable after reasonable enquiry to trace the person entitled to receive such notice, they may instead display the notice in a conspicuous position in the Cemetery and publish the notice in two successive weeks in one or more newspapers circulating in its area. Such display and publication shall be deemed to be sufficient notice.
23. All headstones/memorials of whatever description, admitted into the cemetery or permitted to be erected therein shall be so erected and remain at the sole risk of the owner thereof, and the Council shall not be held responsible for any damage or breakage which may occur to the same.
24. The local authority will determine whether the memorial to be erected shall be at the head or the foot of the grave on a lawn section of the cemetery.
25. Whether or not exclusive rights of burial have been granted, permission is required to scatter cremated remains. Also no interment of ashes should be carried out without permission from the Council.
26. Please be aware that adjacent graves may need to be reopened, which could temporarily restrict access to your grave. This is unavoidable, but we try to limit this to the shortest time possible.
27. Rabbits will occasionally eat flower heads on wreaths in particular chrysanthemums and carnations. The rabbits come into the cemeteries from adjoining areas, and we are limited in our control of them.
The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 provides as follows:
 "Offences in Cemeteries
 (1) No person shall.
 (a) Wilfully create any disturbance in a Cemetery
 (b) Commit any nuisance in a Cemetery
 (c) Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place in a Cemetery
 (d) Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter
 (e) Play at any game or sport in a Cemetery.
 (2) No person not being an officer or servant of the burial authority or another person so authorized by or on behalf of the burial authority shall enter or remain in a Cemetery at any hour when it is closed to the public".
 These rules help to ensure that the Cemeteries will be managed and maintained in a practical manner, whilst at the same time remaining attractive to visitors

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