

North Tawton Cemetery

Information for members of the public

North Tawton Town Council wishes to maintain the high standards of all the graves in our care, and we need the help of every owner of grave rights in order to achieve this.

We need some regulations in order to administer and maintain the standards expected by members of the public. The Town Council reserves the right to amend these as required.

The Cemetery is open to the public at all times. Visitors to the Cemetery are asked to behave in a quiet orderly manner to preserve the reverence and the peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery.

For advice or help please contact the Town Clerk on 01837 880121.

Grave Rights

All grave rights are sold for 100 year periods, after which they can be extended for a fee. Please keep the grave deed safe as it is evidence of your ownership of the right. You have purchased a 'right of burial', which ensures that any further burial in the relevant space must be that of the grave owner, or a burial authorised by the owner. It is important to note that you have bought a 'right' and not the actual land in question, which still remains in the ownership of North Tawton Town Council.

Grave spaces may be purchased at any time whether or not an immediate interment is intended. Fees for the purchase of an Exclusive Right of Burial are in addition to interment fees.

Memorial Safety

As the owner of the grave right, you are responsible for the safety of the memorial on the grave. If it becomes loose, leans, or otherwise appears unsafe, please contact a memorial mason. The Town Council and its contactors carry out regular safety checks and will attempt to contact the grave owner when a problem is detected. If the owner cannot be contacted, for reasons of health and safety the memorial will be laid flat on the grave plot.

Winter Conditions

Every year, glass or china vases on graves freeze and split, and the shards become a safety hazard. Please do not use glass or china containers on graves. Please also note that if vase holes in stone do not drain properly and hold water, they will freeze and this can split any type of stone.

Although the cemetery is never closed, please exercise extreme care throughout winter and avoid visits when ground conditions may result in a fall or some form of injury.

Standard of graves

NOTHING shall be planted on a grave, but floral tributes (both natural and artificial) are welcome. These become unsightly when they become spoiled, so please make arrangements to remove them when necessary. Please refer to the General Regulations for information about floral decorations, grave dressing, and memorials.

Miscellaneous

No dogs – except registered assistance dogs - are permitted to enter or remain in the cemetery.

No cycling is permitted in the cemetery.

Nothing may be removed from the Cemetery without the permission of the Council, and any person detected stealing plants or flowers will be prosecuted.

All persons visiting the Cemetery must keep to the paths, except while visiting a grave, and should refrain from touching the ornaments or anything growing in the cemetery. Any damage whatever done in the cemetery must be made good by the person causing it.

The Town Council reserves the right from time to time to make any alteration in the fees, charges and regulations.

NEW BURIAL ACTS 1977 No: 204

Burial, England and Wales the Local Authority Cemeteries Order 1977. This Order came into operation on 10 March 1977.

Offences in Cemeteries

Section 18 – no persons 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, vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants or any such matters;*
- (e) Play at any game or sport in a cemetery.*

Penalties

Every person who contravenes –

Any offence under Section 18 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 and in the case of a continuing offence to a fine not exceeding £10 for each day during which the offence continues after conviction thereof.

PLAN OF THE CEMETERY SHOWING SECTIONS OF THE GRAVEYARD

A plan of the Cemetery may be inspected by arrangement with the Town Clerk (Tel: 01837 880121)

CONTACT

General enquires, details of current fees and charges, and purchases of Deed of Grant for Exclusive Rights of Burial may be obtained from the Town Clerk (Tel: 01837 880121)

In the event of an emergency please contact the Town Clerk (Tel: 01837 880121)