

LYTCHETT MINSTER AND UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Cemetery Regulations – Overview

We understand that at this difficult time it is not a priority for you and your family to familiarise yourself with the cemetery regulations. Until that time, we have produced this short summary of the key elements of the regulations you should be aware of.

Why does the cemetery require regulations?

We understand that our cemetery is a last resting place for loved ones and that families use many and varied methods to adorn plots. However, as the local authority responsible for Upton Cemetery, and working in conjunction with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematoria Management, it falls to the Town Council to implement regulations, and ensure compliance.

When I purchase a plot at the cemetery, does this mean I own the space?

'Purchase a space' means purchasing the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial; ownership of an Exclusive Right of Burial does not infer ownership of the land itself or the right to carry out any particular activity on the grave plot, the ownership of the cemetery land remains with the Town Council. The registered owner of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial has the automatic right to be buried in the grave; and may also allow others to be buried in the grave (space permitting). The Exclusive Right of Burial also allows a memorial to be placed on the grave.

Do I have the Exclusive Right of Burial forever?

No. The Exclusive Right of Burial for a grave cover a period of 50 years.

Can I have a memorial / headstone on the plot?

Memorials will only be permitted on purchased graves. Memorials must conform to the regulations given in Section 9 of the Regulations.

What is the process I should follow when arranging for a memorial / headstone to be placed on my loved one's plot?

Before any memorial may be erected or works undertaken to an existing memorial, an application must be submitted to the Town Council on the appropriate LMUTC Memorial Application form supplied by the Council. The Exclusive Right of Burial Grantee must sign this form to give their permission for the proposed memorial/works. On approval by the Council, permission will be issued to the responsible Memorial Mason. All appropriate fees must be paid prior to any works

being undertaken on site.

All memorials must be fixed by a BRAMM accredited memorial mason.

Sufficient time for ground settlement must be allowed before fixing a grave memorial. It is recommended to seek advice from a BRAMM accredited memorial mason on this. For cremation plots there is no timescale.

All memorials erected are the sole responsibility of the owner and the Council shall not be held responsible for any damage to or caused by the memorial, howsoever incurred. The Council recommends that grave owners take out an insurance policy on their memorial.

What can or can't I do to the plot my loved one is interred in?

To help us ensure that the cemetery always looks its best, and that our operations in maintaining it can be done to a high standard for all cemetery visitors to enjoy and to reflect in peace and tranquillity, we request that grave spaces must be kept in a neat and tidy condition, and all litter must be removed from the site.

The following is not permitted:

- Fences/edging erected around a grave nor the space defined. On lawn sections planting is confined to the head of the grave and no objects (tributes and flowers) must be placed on the length of the grave.
- The planting of trees on graves or planted in pots on the grave. No planting of any plant, bush, perennial, seasonal bedding etc is allowed to be planted in the ground on the grave.
- Flower holders or other items which are made of breakable material. Any items left on graves are at the owners' risk and the Council cannot be held responsible for any damage to them howsoever caused. The Council may remove any articles from any grave that are likely to cause risk, damage or offence to other visitors to the cemetery or which interfere with the Council's maintenance of the site. Please help the Council to provide a safe cemetery, which is an attractive and peaceful place to visit.

Can I take my dog to the cemetery?

Dogs are not permitted in the cemetery except assistance dogs.