

TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Information for Families



Trimdon Parish Council Cemetery Information for Families

The information in this document applies to the Trimdon Parish Council Cemetery located at Trimdon Grange.

If you need further information or advice, please contact the Cemetery (01429 880538) or the Parish Clerk (01429 880224).

The Council reserves the right to amend any of the cemetery rules and regulations or fees and charges at any time.

Buying an Exclusive Right of Burial

Any exclusive right of burial is where someone purchases the rights to a particular grave plot. The right of burial is given in the form of a Deed.

The rights are purchased for a period of 99 years but you can buy an extension to this right at any time.

Please note that you have bought a right of burial in that plot, not the land itself, ownership of which remains with the Parish Council.

Anyone intending to purchase the exclusive right of burial in a grave space will be allocated the next available plot. Purchase is subject to:

- The approval of the Parish Council.
- The payment or the sum or sums specified by the Council. Visit www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information about the associated costs of funeral services.
- Any further regulations made by the Council.

When the registered owner of a 'right' of burial dies, the person organising the burial must provide satisfactory proof of title, usually a copy of the deed that was issued when the right of burial was purchased. At the time of arranging the funeral of the current deed holder, it is recommended that the deed be transferred to another family member to assist with the smooth organisation of future burials.

If no burial takes place during the purchased period (99 years) and the Council has not received a request for renewal from the owner of the right of burial, then the Council may grant a renewed right of burial to another person. Every reasonable effort will be made to notify the previous owner of the right, or his personal representative, and give the option of renewal first.

The owner of a right of burial can also give up their right to the Council before the 99 years is up. The Council will determine any payments that may be due.

You may transfer your right of burial with the approval of the Council; this may incur a transfer fee. Visit www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information about the associated costs of funeral services. You will need to prove to the Council that you are the owner of the right.

If you are the owner of a right of burial, you cannot dispose of any such right without the consent of the Council first (except by will, descent or marriage).

If you receive a 'right' of burial through a will you must contact the Council to arrange the transfer. This may incur a transfer fee. Visit www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information about the associated costs of funeral services. You will be sent a new Certificate of Ownership.

Wills and Testaments

When a person dies without a will the law says they are 'intestate' and their 'estate' is divided among members of the family under strict rules contained in the Administration of Estates Act after all bills are paid. It is always advisable to complete a will. This will ensure that, amongst other things, an executor or other person is nominated to take care of funeral arrangements.

Cremated Remains

Cremated remains cannot be scattered in the Cemetery even if exclusive rights of burial have been granted.

If you wish to bury cremated remains, you will need permission from the Council. Cremated remains need to be in a biodegradable urn or casket.

Full size grave plots may be used for up to eight interments of cremated remains.

Flowers and Wreaths

Flowers and wreaths may be placed on the grave on the day of the funeral. They may be removed by Cemetery staff two weeks after the funeral or earlier if they start to decay.

Wreaths placed on graves at other times may be removed at the discretion of the Cemetery staff.

Please place all rubbish or waste flowers in the bins provided.

Memorials and Headstones

Memorials may only be placed on a grave space for which the exclusive right of burial has been purchased.

A memorial can only be fitted after a minimum of 12 weeks following a burial. This period allows for the ground to settle.

One fixed vase with a foundation of at least 77mm (3") is allowed on each grave. It must be placed in the personalisation area or at the head of the grave in line with fixed memorials. Vase dimensions should not exceed 381mm (15") long, 152mm (6") wide and 152mm (6") high.

Other memorials are not to exceed 762mm (30") x 457mm (18"), including foundations.

All new memorials and headstones must be installed by suitable qualified memorial masons, registered with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM).

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that memorials are kept in good repair. The owner is responsible for any repairs to damage caused by vandalism, storm, wind, lightning, cracking or subsidence of footings. If a memorial becomes unsafe, the Council may contact the registered owner (or representative) advising that repairs are required.

You may wish to arrange insurance to cover the cost of any future repairs. Your memorial mason can provide details of appropriate insurance schemes.

Monumental masons must provide a minimum guarantee. Please contact your monumental mason if problems occur within this guarantee period. If you have any problems contact the National Association of Monumental Masons.

The Council will check the safety of memorials on an annual basis.

For full details of the regulations relating to memorials, please see the Trimdon Parish Council Cemetery Regulations and Information for Stone Masons at www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Kerb Surrounds

Kerb surrounds are not permitted in the Cemetery.

Register of Information

A Register of Burials is available from the Parish Clerk. You may also view plans showing the locations of all graves. Please note that every effort will be made to provide information from the Council's records. However, where extensive staff time is involved, a charge may be due, notice of which will be given in advance of a search being carried out.

General Cemetery Regulations

The cemetery will be open to the public each day from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm or dusk (whichever is the earlier).

Only cars and vehicles belonging to undertakers and mourners accompanying a funeral or people visiting a grave will be allowed in the Cemetery. Drivers of vehicles must not exceed the 10mph speed limit.

Visitors are asked:

- Not to obstruct or interfere with employees of the Council in the execution of their duties or to interfere with any burial taking place in the Cemetery.
- Not to access any building or enclosures in the Cemetery, except on lawful business.
- Not to wilfully create any disturbance in the Cemetery or behave in a way that may be a nuisance to others.
- Not to enter or remain in the Cemetery after it has closed to the public. No person is permitted to be in the Cemetery outside of opening hours.
- To enter the Cemetery using the entrance provided.
- Not to pull or cut shrubs or flowers growing within the Cemetery or to interfere with any grave or memorial.
- Not to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Not to gamble or play games or sports in the Cemetery.
- To keep to footpaths and driveways and generally to respect the Cemetery at all times.
- To keep dogs on a leash at all times. The visitor in control of the dog must remove any dog waste from the Cemetery, with the exception of a guide dog accompanying a blind person.
- Not to bury or scatter ashes of pets in the Cemetery.
- Not to play musical instruments, walkmans or similar sound systems in the Cemetery, without the consent of the Parish Clerk.
- Not to offer Council employees any gifts or gratuity.
- To ensure that no demonstrations of any kind are held in the Cemetery without the consent of the Parish Clerk.

The Council may close the Cemetery, or any part of it, to the public for such time as they may consider necessary.

Register Offices in County Durham

Details of the Register Offices in County Durham are available on the County Council website www.durham.gov.uk or by calling 03000 26 0000

Bereavement Helplines and Counselling Services

Cruse Bereavement Care (Bereavement Counselling)

www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk

Compassionate Friends (Support and Friendship by those Similarly Bereaved)

www.tcf.org.uk

Age UK

www.ageuk.org.uk

Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

www.fsid.org.uk

24 Hour Cot Death Helpline
Telephone 01635 861 117
Stillborn & Neonatal Death Society (SANDS)
www.uk-sands.org

Child Death Helpline
www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

The Natural Death Centre, London
www.naturaldeath.org.uk