Ross-on-Wye Town Council

# Ross-on-Wye Town Cemetery Memorial Regulations

**These regulations are intended to encourage good practices, to curb bad ones and to enhance the style of the cemetery to enable visitors to pay respects in pleasant surroundings.**

## MEMORIALS

**The following regulations M 1-7 apply to all sections of the Cemetery.**

M1 The Town Council has the authority to allow memorials to be introduced into the cemetery provided they comply with these regulations.

M2 The holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial must submit an application form requesting the proposed erection of a memorial. The Right to Erect and Maintain a Memorial will be issued and will run concurrently with the Exclusive Right of Burial, subject to approval.

M3 All work shall comply with the BRAMM Blue Book or the NAMM Code of Working Practice in so far as it is compatible with the Town Council's regulations and fitted by a BRAMM registered mason to the current edition of BS8415 standard. The BRAMM registered mason will await approval before any work is carried out and will notify the Town Council, giving at least 2 working days' notice, as to when the work will be carried out.

M4 The design of memorials, which should be of natural quarried stone, granite or marble and the wording and lettering of any inscriptions, must, in every case, be submitted on the Application for a Memorial form for prior approval the BRAMM Registered Memorial Mason.

M5 Inscriptions must be simple, reverent, and appropriate. Engraving should harmonise with the selected material and may be incised or in relief and may be painted. Plastic or other applied lettering is not permitted.

M6 The design and type of a memorial is strictly limited in Sections B and C. In Section A (the old section) a wider choice of memorial is possible (see below for details).

M7 The removal of a memorial stone for the re- opening of a grave for further interment or its removal for repair, maintenance or inscription is permitted with the consent of the Council.

## SECTION A

**Section A is the area of the cemetery to the left of the path beyond the roundabout as you come from the main entrance.**

A1 Headstones must not exceed 4 ft in overall height (measured from ground level), 3

ft in width and 6 inches in thickness of the upright headstone. However, if slate is used the headstones may be thinner but must not be less than 2 inches thick.

A2 Headstones may be so shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability, as stated in BS8415.

A3 Headstones may be set on an integral base not more than 3 ft wide by 1 ft 3 inches overall from front to back and not more than 9 inches high.

A4 One or two flower vases, not exceeding 8 inches x 8 inches may be incorporated in the base of a headstone, with adequate drainage.

A5 Raised kerbs may be permitted but must not exceed 7 ft x 3 ft in overall plan.

A6 Stone chippings are not permitted except within raised kerbs, and must be on concrete flags and not a membrane.

A7 Separate vases may be placed within the grave space, provided they are within raised kerbs, and supported on a concrete flag.

A8 A memorial flower vase may be put in place of a headstone. This must not exceed 12 inches in height. A full application on the prescribed form must be made.

A9 The grave number must be inscribed at the side or low down on the reverse of the headstone, unpainted and unleaded, not more than ½ inch in height.

A10 The name of a mason and grave space number can only be inscribed low down at the side or on the reverse of a headstone in unpainted and unleaded not more than ½ inch in height.

A11 Memorials must be erected to be in line with the other memorials in the same row and will be checked after fixing by the cemetery officer, as all memorials must harmonise with the existing memorials.

A12 A small mound of earth may be left immediately after the interment. Six months after the interment the grave will be levelled with the surrounding turf and relawned.

A13 Any memorial which is found to be loose must be secured to provide stability. It is the responsibility of the owner to arrange for this to be done. An application to re-fix a memorial must be made to the Council and work undertaken by a BRAMM registered stone mason and installed in compliance with the current edition of BS8415.

**SECTION B**

**Section B is the lawned area of the cemetery to the right of the path beyond roundabout as you come from the main entrance. The only memorials permitted in Section B are Headstones. No kerbs, planting or additional vases will be permitted and any placed may be removed without notice.**

B1 Headstones must not exceed 3ft 6 inches in overall height (measured from ground level), 3 ft in width and 4 inches in thickness. However, if slate is used the headstones may be thinner but must not be less than 2 inches thick.

B2 Headstones may be so shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability, as stated in BS8415.

B3 Headstones may be set on an integral base not more than 3 ft wide by 1 ft 3 inches overall from front to back and not more than 9 inches high.

B4 One or two flower vases, not exceeding 8 inches x 8 inches may be incorporated in the base of a headstone, with adequate drainage.

B5 The grave number must be inscribed at the side or low down on the reverse of the headstone, unpainted and unleaded, not more than ½ inch in height.

B6 The name of a mason and grave space number can only be inscribed low down at the side or on the reverse of a headstone or cross in unpainted and unleaded not more than ½ inch in height.

B7 Raised kerbs, railings, plain or coloured chippings or stones in the shape of hearts, figures, open books, or bird baths etc. are not permitted.

B8 Memorials must be erected to be in line with the other memorials in the same row and will be checked after fixing by the cemetery officer, as all memorials must harmonise with the existing memorials.

B10 A small mound of earth may be left immediately after the interment. Six months after the interment the grave will be levelled with the surrounding turf and relawned.

B11 Any memorial which is found to be loose must be secured to provide stability. It is the responsibility of the owner to arrange for this to be done. An application to re-fix a memorial must be made to the Council and work undertaken by a BRAMM registered stone mason and installed in compliance with the current edition of BS8415.

**SECTION C**

**Section C is reserved for cremated remains and can be found on the far left hand side of the avenue as you enter the cemetery. Tablets are secured on concrete slabs within grassed pathways.**

C1 Unless buried in an existing grave, all cremated remains must be buried in Section C.

C2 Immediately after burial, a square slab will be placed over the grave space.

C3 Memorial stones, incorporating vases if desired, may be permitted in respect of any cremated remains, provided that the stone must not cover an area of more than 20 inches square and exceed 15 inches in height.

C4 Cremated remains may not be interred in a non-perishable container.

C5 Memorials must be erected to be in line with the other memorials in the same row and will be checked after fixing by the cemetery officer, as all memorials must harmonise with the existing memorials.

**FLOWERS, PLANTS AND TREES (ALL SECTIONS)**

F1 When floral tributes are removed, they must be disposed of in the receptacle provided within the Cemetery. All flowers must be removed when they have died. The Town Council reserves the right to remove dead or dying flowers.

F2 Flowers can only be placed in memorial vases, secure vases within a curbed grave or in an integral vase. Loose vases are not permitted. Glass and plastic vases are not permitted.

F3 Plants may only be planted on a grave within a raised curb (Section A only). Such plants must remain contained within the grave space and not reach a height of more than 18 inches (to include the pot if planted in a pot). Any plant exceeding this size may be removed or trimmed back.

F4 Trees are not permitted on any grave, but permission may be given to put a memorial tree and plaque in certain areas of the Cemetery.

F5 Artificial flowers should not be used. Any found loose will be disposed of.

## THE FOLLOWING GENERAL RULES APPLY TO ALL SECTIONS

### Ornaments and artefacts

G1 Ornaments and artefacts left on graves may be removed at the Council's discretion. No such item will be permitted on any grassed area.

G2 Solar powered items are not allowed in any part of the cemetery and may be removed without notice.

G3 Windsocks, windchimes and windmills are not allowed in any part of the cemetery and may be removed without notice.

G4 Items of food and drink may not be left on any grave and will be removed without notice.

### Cremated remains

G5 The scattering of cremated remains is not permitted in the Cemetery.

### Dogs

G6 No dogs are allowed in the Cemetery with the exception of Assistance Dogs.

### Games

G7 No games, balls, sports, riding of bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or similar are allowed in the cemetery.

### Vehicles

G8 Please be considerate when parking on site and if there is an interment taking place, park outside the cemetery.

### Glass

G9 Vases, jars or bottles made of glass are not allowed within the cemetery and the Town Council reserves the right to remove them without prior notice.

### Refuse

G10 All refuse must be disposed of in the bin provided.

*Reviewed by Amenities Sub-Committee October 2026*