

Cheddar Parish Council

Burial Regulations & Fees

Approved	November 2024
Minute	7548
Version	1.16
Review date	November 2025

Regulations in respect of Cheddar Cemetery, Sharpham Road, Cheddar, Somerset, made by the Parish Council of Cheddar, pursuant to the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1974, for the management of the Cemetery provided by the Parish Council of Cheddar.

The primary purpose of these Regulations is to create and maintain a peaceful space for those who rest in it and those who visit it.

In order to preserve the dignity of the cemetery and to ease the task of maintaining it these Regulations have been adopted by Cheddar Parish Council.

REGULATIONS

1. The Burial Authority is the Parish Council of Cheddar.
2. The word “Parishioner” used in the Table of Fees means a person who at the time of death was an inhabitant of the Civil Parish of Cheddar, or, in the case of a stillborn child, where either or both parents are or were such inhabitants.

The word “non-Parishioner” includes every person who is not a Parishioner, as before defined.

3. On the occurrence of a death, application is to be made to the Clerk to the Burial Authority for the Form of Notice, which must be completed and returned together with the fees payable, at least two days before the interment, exclusive of Sundays. Interment at less notice shall, however, be permitted if certified by a Medical Practitioner to be necessary or may under other exceptional circumstances be authorised.
4. On the grant of Exclusive Right of burial for a period of 100 years in a grave space, the Grantee shall be entitled to and shall receive a formal stamped grant signed by the Clerk to the Burial Authority in respect of this Right. No grant of burial Right is transferable without the consent of the Burial Authority. Possession of a grant shall at the discretion of the Burial Authority be deemed to be evidence of ownership. The written consent of the owner, or his or her personal representative, must be lodged with the Clerk to the Burial Authority when it is desired to inter in the grave the body of a person other than the owner of the grave.
5. All rights of burial shall be subject to the rules and Regulations of the Burial Authority in force at the time of burial, or any which may be issued by any other competent authority in respect of burial grounds.
6. The fees and payments are to be in accordance with the table herewith annexed, and must be paid on giving notice of interment, or before the work is begun in respect of which they are payable.
7. The selection of the space for interment in all cases shall be subject to the approval of the Burial Authority, and by reference to the Clerk to the Burial Authority. Grave space will be used in strict

rotation, and the only space which may be reserved by any person is the plot next in rotation.

8. No burial shall take place before 10.00a.m or after 4.00p.m between 1st April and 30th September, nor before 10.00a.m or after 3.00p.m between 1st October and 31st March without special permission. No burial shall take place on a Sunday unless allowed by the Burial Authority by reason of special circumstances.
9. The grave shall be 5 feet (1.52m) deep for a single burial, 6 feet 6 inches (2.02m) for a double burial.
10. When more than one body is to be interred in a grave purchased for the use of a family, a layer of earth not less than 6 inches (152mm) in depth shall be left between each coffin.
11. No coffin shall be buried in any grave in such a manner that any part of such coffin shall come within 3 feet 6 inches (1.07m) of the ordinary level of the ground.
12. All graves are dug and excavated at the responsibility of the Undertaker, and to the satisfaction of the Burial Authority. If the gravedigger usually charged with the duty within the Parish is not available, then the name, address and references of the gravedigger who will carry out the work are to be obtained by the Undertaker, who may be required to communicate this information to the Clerk to the Burial Authority.
13. The space between grave rows is to be 9 feet 6 inches (2.90m).
14. Whenever a burial has taken place, the grave shall forthwith be filled with earth, and in due course levelled, the surface covered with fresh turf, and surplus earth removed. This work must be completed within six months of the burial by the Funeral Director.
15. The burial of cremated remains where no grave exists shall be in that portion of the Cemetery set aside for this purpose, in a grave no more than 18 inches by 18 inches (457mm), the depth to be not less than two feet below the ground level. Application for such burial is to be made to the Clerk to the Burial Authority in the manner prescribed in Regulation number 4, and the grave shall be dug in the space allocated by the Clerk to the Burial Authority. Cremated remains may not be scattered in any part of the Cemetery.
16. All materials, gravestones and crosses must be carried into the burial ground by hand or conveyed on handcarts or trucks having rubber tyres.
17. An ink drawing to scale of every headstone or cross giving the register number of the grave space, together with a short specification of materials to be used and a copy of every proposed inscription shall be submitted on A4 sized paper to the Burial Authority for approval and the appropriate fees paid before the execution of any work. Materials to be used are restricted to stone, marble or wood. The grave space number shall be placed on every headstone or cross in one inch (254 mm) incised figures at least 6 inches (152mm) above the level of the ground. No headstone may be erected within 6 months of burial. All headstones must be kept in line.
18. Flat faced memorial stones, tablets or crosses made of local stone or granite only will be permitted, and these must not exceed 3' 6" (1070mm) in height, with maximum thickness of the stone not exceeding 1' (300mm) from back to front and not less than 2' 6" (770mm) high and 3" (750mm) thick. They must be placed on an appropriately-sized flat base stone, to minimize any danger of future instability. No kerb stones will be permitted. The inscription should be simple and reverential.

19. In that portion of the cemetery set aside for the burial of cremated remains, memorials may only be in the form of a flat stone tablet, measuring 2 inches deep (51mm), 12 inches (305mm) from back to front and up to 18 (457mm) inches from side to side. It must be centrally placed on a base stone no more than 2 feet square (610mm), which is to be set into the ground in such a way that it rises no more than 2 inches (51mm) from ground level. Memorials must be placed in line, and 18 inches (457mm) apart.
20. Nothing of the foregoing shall prevent the burial of cremated remains in any existing grave with the consent of the relative concerned, the depth to be not less than 2 feet (508mm) below the ground level of the said grave. Application for such burial to be made to the Clerk to the Burial Authority in the manner prescribed in Regulation No. 4.
21. The Burial Authority will keep in order all parts of the cemetery, but headstones or crosses or graves in respect of which exclusive rights of burials have been granted shall be kept in repair by the owner or relative concerned. The Burial Authority reserves the right at all times to remove wreaths on any grave space, and any plants growing thereon. Any headstone or cross not kept in good order, condition and repair, which in the opinion of the Burial Authority constitutes a danger by reason of its condition, will be removed or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Burial Authority, provided that where the name and address of the owner or relative concerned is known to the Burial Authority, three months' notice of neglect or want of repair shall be given before action is taken.
22. Artificial flowers or wreaths may not be placed in the cemetery.

To facilitate grass cutting, flower vases etc. must be situated within one foot of the headstone or head of the grave.
23. The official plan of the cemetery and the register of graves shall be kept at the office of the Clerk to the Burial Authority, and shall be open for inspection by any person, by appointment with the Clerk. A certified extract from the Register of Burials may be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Burial Authority. An application for a search to be made in the register can also be carried out by contacting the Clerk.
24. The Cemetery shall be open daily from 10.00a.m until one hour before sunset. Children will only be admitted if in the care of a responsible adult. Vehicles will be permitted only at the discretion of the Burial Authority, and no dogs are allowed except on a lead.
25. The attention of all persons is drawn to Regulations 17, 18 and 19 in respect of the erection of memorials, and it is emphasised that no order should be placed with a monumental mason before the sanction of the Burial Authority is obtained. *All memorials should conform to British Standard BS 8415 and the National Association of Memorial Masons' Code of Working Practice.*
26. The undertaker shall ensure that the portion of the Disposal Certificate to be sent to the Registrar shall be retained by the officiating minister, and that the remaining portion shall be given to the Clerk to the Burial Authority.
27. For the purpose of green burials, only biodegradable materials to be used for the shroud and no embalmed remains to be interred. Plastics, laminate and glue are not acceptable. Shrouds must be wool, cotton or natural fibre and biodegradable. Coffins to be wicker or cardboard. Cremated remains to be in biodegradable pots.
28. In the woodland/green burial area, there are to be no headstones or individual markers.

29. In the event of an application for an exhumation, Ministry of Justice permission must be obtained, see appendix 1. Further permissions include Diocese permissions and paperwork (for the old part of the cemetery) and Somerset Council Environmental Health Officer involvement all to be organised by the applicant. A specialist exhumation contractor (usually a Funeral Director) must be employed by the applicants. These will advise on the relevant procedures for the actual exhumation.

Appendix 1

Exhumations may occur for a number of reasons, including:

- Movement from the original grave to another at the request of the family.
- Repatriation of the body overseas.
- As a result of a court order because forensic examination of the body is required.

Exhumation is a serious and expensive process, and should not be undertaken without a lot of thought. The legal process requires that the whole family agree that exhumation is the right choice.

- It is an offence to exhume any human remains without first obtaining the necessary lawful permissions from the Ministry of Justice.
- If the body is buried in consecrated ground, permission from the church authorities (a faculty) must also be obtained.
- The Council Environmental Health officer must also be in attendance.

Usually, the exhumation will take place early in the morning, and the cemetery is still closed to the public. The area in which the exhumation takes place should be screened off, in order to maintain the dignity of the deceased, and to preserve public decency. In order to ensure that public safety and decency are preserved throughout the exhumation process, an Environmental Health Officer must be present. If the conditions of the licence cannot be met, or there are public health or decency concerns, the exhumation may not proceed.

Version Control

In pursuance of Article 3 of the local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1974, the Parish Council of Cheddar at a meeting held on the 20th January 1993, made and fixed the foregoing Regulations for the management of the Cheddar Cemetery at Sharpham Road, Cheddar.

1 st Revision:	February 2003.
2 nd Revision:	July 2006.
3 rd Revision:	1 st April 2008.
4 th Revision:	Fees only, 1 st April 2009.
5 th Revision:	Interment fees only, Minute 4417, 1 st April 2010.
6 th Revision:	Waiving of all fees for the burial of an infant not exceeding one year, excluding the ex rights: Minute 4507, 29 th June 2010
7 th Revision:	1 st April 2011, Minute 4580, 30 th November 2010
8 th Revision:	No. 19 Headstone dimension and materials, Minute 4792 31 st January 2012
9 th Revision	Fees only 1 st April 2013, Minute 4954 27 th November 2012
10 th Revision:	No. 8, Reservation of grave space, P & R Minute 2717, 9 th September 2014
11 th Revision:	Fees only 30 th September 2014, Minute 5365
12 th Revision:	Fees and waiving of all fees for the burial of a child and erection of headstone on a grave or memorial tablet for a child not exceeding 16 years 28 th November 2017 Minute 5993
13 th revision	Includes references to the green burial/woodland site and fees revised 27 th November 2019 Minute 6385
14 th revision	Remove reference to triple graves, Garden of Remembrance. Remove charge for extract requests from the Register of Burials, P&R Minute 3567, 10 th November 2020. Include reference to the Burial Authority in regulation 7, 15 & 23. Minute 6549, 24 th November 2020.
15 th revision	Fees. Minute 7291. Regulation 29 inserted with appendix. Minute 7307
16 th revision	Fees only. Minute 7548

CHEDDAR CEMETERY
TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2025-2026

INTERMENTS

The fees indicated in this part do not include the fee for the digging of the grave.

For the interment of:

- a) the body of a stillborn child, or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 18 years:**

Parishioner:	Nil	Non-parishioner:	£105.00
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- b) the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 18 years:**

Parishioner:	£260.00	Non-parishioner:	£520.00
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- c) Green Burials:**

Parishioner	£620.00	Non-Parishioner	£1,240.00
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For the interment of cremated remains:

Parishioner:	£95.00	Non-parishioner:	£190.00
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GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN EARTHEN GRAVE

The fees indicated in this part include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof.

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 100 years:

- a) in an earthen grave:**

Parishioner:	£250.00	Non-parishioner:	£500.00
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- b) of cremated remains:**

Parishioner:	£175.00	Non-parishioner:	£350.00
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MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

For the right to erect or place a headstone or cross on a grave or a memorial tablet with inscription for a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 18 years:

Parishioner:	Nil	Non-parishioner:	£105.00
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For the right to erect or place a headstone or cross on a grave:

Parishioner:	£125.00	Non-parishioner:	£250.00
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For the right to place a memorial tablet with inscription:

Parishioner:	£115.00	Non-parishioner:	£230.00
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To add an additional inscription to an existing headstone or tablet

Parishioner:	£30.00	Non-parishioner	£60.00
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EXHUMATION

Charge for each exhumation.

Parishioner:	£260.00	Non-parishioner	£520.00
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