

TO: ALL COUNCILLORS
FROM: ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
DATE: 25TH FEBRUARY 2021
RE: BURIAL REGULATIONS - PROPOSED CHANGES
DRAFT WORDING REGARDING KERBING AND SPOIL

1. Background

At a parish council meeting on Monday 8th February, the Council resolved to allow kerbing to be installed for occupied graves and those that have been reserved by a given date. The specific wording from the minutes has been added into the attached Burial Regulations, however it referred to 'within prescribed constraints' which needs to be defined as many potential variations exist with regards to design.

It was agreed that the Burial Officer should suggest a cut off date, after which no new graves will be allowed kerbing. 1st April 2021 has been suggested by the Burial Officer.

In addition to the changes regarding kerbing, I have also taken the opportunity to raise a query about the future of spoil onsite as councillors are reviewing the Burial Regulations. Further to a report in October 2020 by councillors, following a visit to the Barford Lane site, the soil at the top end of the site was highlighted as a future action to be removed. Over time this area has become covered in weeds in places and other items have been left in the area, including tyres, wirework from floral displays and wood for example. Soil has been removed historically every few years by a grab lorry, at a cost of approximately £270 each time. This cost however is only to remove topsoil and costs will increase if the soil includes weed. The same company will not remove the other items such as tyres and therefore this will increase costs further. Whilst reviewing the regulations of other parishes it is evident that some others do not provide a location onsite for the spoil and the wording requests that the Funeral Director/grave digger removes it.

2. Research

Research regarding kerbing and the variables to consider for future applications has been conducted using the following sources:-

- **I N Newman** – conversation with member of staff who specialises in dealing with memorials for the Fordingbridge and Salisbury office.
- **Spire Memorials** – conversation with a stone mason to discuss the possible variations and practical aspects of kerbing.
- **Various other parish burial regulations** – to review the wording used and conditions outlined.

3. Recommendations

Kerbing (see section 3 – Memorials, point 3.111 onwards)

- **To review and approve the suggested wording in the attached draft of the Burial Regulations.**
 - This provides acceptable guidelines against which the Burial Officer can review future applications and will ensure that future kerbing is appropriate for the setting, whilst still providing some flexibility and personal preferences to be expressed within the memorial.
- **To approve a date of 1st April 2021 as the cut off date.**
 - After this kerbing will not be allowed for future bookings or reservations of graves at the Barford Lane Cemetery.
 - The future maintenance of the site has been taken into account, so that floral arrangements are not permitted as part of the kerbing (so that floral tributes do not hang out over the sides) to enable grass to be cut with minimal obstruction up to and around each grave.

Spoil (see section 2.8 – Memorials, C – blue wording current, green proposed)

- **To review and approve the suggested wording in the attached draft of the Burial Regulations.**
 - This will mean that all future spoil from new graves should be removed from the site by the grave digger/funeral director (and not disposed of onsite behind the hedge at the top of the Burial Ground).
 - The soil which is currently behind the hedge could be used if needed by Funeral Directors/grave diggers where the level of graves needs to be made up if the soil has sunk following the burial.