**Garsington Parish Council Burial Ground**

This document is to help you in the design and upkeep of your grave and to keep our burial ground in a state that is befitting its role as a place of rest and reflection.

In all matters, the Vicar is your first point of contact, but note that the Parish Council has final responsibility for the burial ground.

Before the start of any work associated with a grave, please apply in writing to the Vicar, giving a description of the proposed work, including monument design and inscription details accompanied by a scale drawing. Do not proceed with any works until you have received the consent of the Vicar.

In order to preserve adjacent graves and surrounding grass, please ensure that they are protected with canvas, boarding or mats during grave digging and erection of memorial stones.

In order to facilitate grass mowing, please ensure that the surface of the burial mound is kept as level as possible after the natural settlement of the grave. After six months, the Parish Council shall, at its discretion, take appropriate action to level the plot.

The erection of the following classes of monument will normally be sanctioned by the Vicar without reference to the Parish Council:

1. The dimension of headstones should be in the range 750-1200mm height, 500-900mm wide and 75-150mm thick.

Note: A base forming an integral part of the design of the headstone is permitted, but ensure that it does not project more than 50mm beyond the headstone in any direction and is fixed on a foundation slab (which may be of a suitable material but not necessarily natural quarried stone), which itself is fixed flush with the ground and extending 75-125mm all round such that a mower may pass freely over it.

1. Horizontal ledgers either flush with the turf or raised up to 225mm above a base, extending about 75mm all round and itself flush with the turf. Inclusive maximum measurements are 2100mm by 900mm.
2. Vases up to 300mm by 200mm by 200mm with a memorial inscription and situated at the head of the grave.
3. Areas of the burial ground is set aside for tablets or plaques up to 450mm square.

Anything outside these classes of monument need to be referred to the Parish Council.

Monuments should be made of teak, oak or natural stone. The type of stone traditionally used in local buildings or stone similar in colour and texture is preferred.

Bulbs and small annual plants may be planted on the grave. Plants or flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container, but please no permanent trees, shrubs or artificial flowers.

Wreaths and cut flowers may be laid on the grave or set in vases or containers as above. Persons deputed to take care of the day to day upkeep and maintenance of the burial ground may remove flowers or plants when they have withered.

In order to maintain the character of the burial ground in keeping with the gravestones and monuments already in position and in keeping with its position in the Oxfordshire countryside, please adhere to the following when considering the design of your memorial:

1. Please do not use polished granite, black stone, white marble, synthetic stone or plastic.
2. Please do not use raised kerbs, railings, stone chippings, built-in vase containers, figure statuary, open books, bird baths or lights.
3. Please, no advertisements or trademarks except for the mason’s name.

Garsington Parish Council

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