

## **Hamble le Rice Parish Council Cemetery and Burial Policy**

The cemetery is a valued asset and the Council's management objectives are to provide a space for quiet contemplation, whilst supporting biodiversity as it occupies a key position providing a green corridor for wildlife. The cemetery will be managed on as naturalistic a basis as possible, with grass mown infrequently. It is intended that St Andrew's Cemetery be a cemetery laid to grass as far as possible

Space at the cemetery is very limited and in order to ensure existing and future parishioners can be buried in the cemetery the Council has passed a resolution requiring all graves to be dug to at least double depth (seven feet). The Council reserves the right, to be exercised with sensitivity and discretion, to permit further burials in a grave where the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been purchased or has expired. This will be carried out with the agreement of the persons arranging an interment and the body to be buried will not be connected in any way with the previous interment.

The right to burial in the cemetery is restricted to parishioners listed on the electoral register at the time of death. Former parishioners who had to leave Hamble le Rice to move directly to a registered care facility due to physical or mental incapacity or those killed on active duty with HM forces may be eligible. Corroboration of information to support such applications will be required.

Non-parishioners may not be interred in St Andrews Cemetery, unless being interred in an existing grave of an immediate family member and with the permission of the holder of the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial.

The Council can at its discretion in exceptional circumstances consider applications from former parishioners. Factors the Council can consider in respect of exceptional applications from former parishioners are:

- At least 10 years voluntary community service prior to leaving Hamble village
- Living within Hound or Bursledon parishes at the time of death and remaining active in the Hamble village community, despite being non-resident
- Immediate family members currently living in Hamble parish
- Re-opening existing burial/ashes plot

Applicants would need to satisfy more than one of the criteria. However, these factors will not be considered in isolation and there may be other exceptional circumstances attributable to specific individuals. Each application will be considered on its individual merits. Corroboration of information to support exceptional applications will be required.

If an application is approved for a former parishioner a multiplier of fee rates will apply to contribute to the upkeep of the cemetery. This multiplier applies to all fees including burial fees, memorial fees and Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 the multiplier will be three times that applicable to parishioners on the current electoral roll.

The Parish Council has a statutory duty to ensure risks within the council's cemetery are properly managed and the Cemetery Regulations and Memorial Regulations are in place to ensure the safety of all those working and visiting the cemetery. Failure to adhere to the council's regulations may result in sanctions and the council reserves the right to exclude any person from the cemetery.

The Burial and Memorial regulations are in addition to the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and any other appropriate laws or statutes currently in force.

The fees and charges payable to the Parish Council contribute towards the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery and regular safety inspections. In the longer term some funds will be set aside to contribute towards the cost of identifying and securing a new burial site.

Where an application to re-open a grave or install a memorial is submitted for an existing plot without a current valid Exclusive Right of Burial in place this must be purchased at the prevailing fee rate before any further interment, memorial installation or additional inscription can be approved.

In the event of any query or dispute regarding ownership of a plot it is the family's responsibility to establish ownership and provide the necessary supporting documentary evidence.

If the application for a re-opening relates to a former or non-parishioner the appropriate fee multiplier will be applied. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 the multiplier will be three times that applicable to parishioners on the current electoral roll. This is to contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery.

Those moving directly to a registered care facility and meeting the eligibility criteria and those killed whilst on active duty with HM forces will be charged parishioner rates.

Further information regarding the rights, responsibilities and legal processes applicable to Exclusive Right of Burial is available on [hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Council will actively seek to identify and secure a suitable area of land to provide an additional burial facility.

Copies of the current:

- Burial Regulations
- Memorial Regulations
- Table of Fees

can be found on the parish council's website at [hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk)