

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Burial Ground Committee

Agenda item 3 Review of current burial policy regarding non parishioners

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**DECISION: TO CONSIDER IF POLICY IS EQUITABLE AND TRANSPARENT OR ARE REVISIONS NECESSARY.**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The current policy regarding non-parishioners states:

*“Non-parishioners may not be interred in St Andrews Cemetery.*

*For former parishioners please give details to the Clerk of the Council. If in exceptional circumstances permission is granted, double fee rate applies (save for those recently moved to care home facilities)”*

## **CONTENT**

The Burial Committee does not have any published guidelines nor rationale about the definition of “exceptional” for non-parishioners.

The Council should be able to explain its decisions and to demonstrate consistency in doing this. A lack of clarity about decision making could result in the Council being vulnerable to challenge in the event of a dispute.

It would be helpful to applicants to be given some indication as to the nature of factors considered as exceptional and to use this in guiding decision making. Members should feel able to exercise discretion but to do so in a way that is fair and transparent.

## **SPECIFIC ISSUES**

1. The capacity of the burial ground is limited and no other new sites have been identified.
2. In the event another site is located and the Parish Council is able to purchase the land it is unlikely burials will be permitted as a result the height of the water table which would be deemed too high by the Environment Agency. Interments would be limited to ashes only.
3. Given this there is a need to ration space and the Council policy is designed to do this giving preference to local people.

4. Annually the Council reviews its policies and will be updating a number as part of the Annual Council Meeting.
5. Members are asked to consider whether the policy continues to be appropriate and whether in the light of applications which have been made under exceptional circumstances whether there is a need to review the policy.
6. If the Committee wishes to have the option to consider applications from non-parishioners then guideline should be agreed to assist people making their applications as well as guiding decision making. These decisions should be transparent (although not disclosing personal and sensitive information).
7. Factors that could be considered for non- residents include:
  - Substantial community service prior to leaving the village
  - Remaining active in the village community despite being non resident
  - Remaining within a certain radius of Hamble (moved within Hound or Bursledon parishes)
  - Other family members living or working in Hamble parish
  - Re-opening existing burial/ashes plot only
8. In the event that an application from a non-parishioner is agreed the rationale behind the decision making should be recorded for future reference.
9. Does the current fee multiplier applied to non-parishioners need to be reviewed?