

Parish Cemetery – Review of Available Burial and Ashes Plots

Proposal

That the Parish Council considers the proposed changes to the area allocated for the interment of ashes and notes the remaining capacity for graves and the need to plan for future burial spaces.

Background

The Parish Cemetery is divided into two areas: one for graves and one for the interment of ashes. There are currently some concerns about the available space and the need to plan ahead for future use.

1. Area for Interment of Ashes

A sapling was planted in the cemetery approximately 50 years ago and has since grown into a mature tree with an extensive root system. The tree is now within the area mapped out for the interment of ashes.

Following advice from the gravedigger and consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council, it is proposed that the area affected by the tree and its roots is removed from the burial plan. This would mean losing 49 potential interment plots.

The gravedigger has advised that the plots to the right of the tree could be used, working down in rows of 10 plots. However, this would mean moving into an area where the ground is uneven. The gravedigger considers this suitable for the interment of ashes, as they are not buried as deeply as full graves. However, some memorial tablets may need to be placed on a slight slope.



2. Remaining Grave Spaces and Future Planning

The area currently mapped out for graves has approximately 25 spaces remaining and could be full within the next five years.

The area around the bench has not yet been mapped out for either graves or the interment of ashes. This area will need to be assessed and mapped out within the next couple of years to ensure there is sufficient space available for future burials.



Recommendation

The Parish Council is asked to:

1. Approve the removal of the area affected by the tree and its root system from the plan for the interment of ashes, accepting the loss of 49 potential plots.
2. Approve the use of the area to the right of the tree, working down in rows of 10 plots, noting that the uneven ground may mean some memorial tablets are positioned on a slight slope.
3. Note that approximately 25 grave spaces remain and that the area around the bench will need to be assessed and mapped out for future burial use within the next couple of years.