



Lympstone Parish Council Burial Ground Policy

The following policy was adopted and agreed by Lympstone Parish Council on 6th February 2023

BURIAL GROUND POLICY

1. Lympstone Parish Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Burial Ground, School Hill, Lympstone EX8 5JY (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10, Local Government Act 1972 ss214,215).
2. Lympstone Parish Council has health and safety responsibilities to its employees, contractors and visitors to the cemetery (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 s2, s3, Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977). There is also a legal duty on the council to assess the risks from cemetery structures and work activities and ensure that the risks are controlled. (The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999). A detailed risk assessment is written.
3. Memorial masons have the responsibility to work in accordance with the council's conditions and specifications for memorials, and must be registered with National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) or British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM).
4. Whilst Lympstone Parish Council has overall responsibility for the safety of the cemetery, including risks from unstable memorials, it does not own the memorials. The owner of the memorial will be the grave owner. An owner, the Deed Holder or successor in title of a memorial, has the responsibility to maintain it so as not to present a hazard.
5. Annual risk assessments will be carried out by Lympstone Parish Council as part of a planned exercise or when a change has taken place. This inspection will include pathways, the boundary hedges, grave areas, trees, vegetation and entrance gates.
6. Memorial Headstone Testing will be carried out on a 5-year rolling programme. Testing will be carried out by specialist NAMM or BRAMM trained inspectors who have passed the City & Guilds Certificate of Competence for the safety inspection and assessment of memorials. The inspectors will record all details, such as the age, size and condition of the memorial and will notify Lympstone Parish Council of any required works.
 - a) If, upon inspection, a memorial is considered to pose an immediate risk, the inspector will:
 - Ensure the safety of the public.
 - Instruct that the headstone be laid flat on the grave, inscriptions face up.
 - Erect a sign to warn members of the public of the hazard.
 - Notify the Parish Council, who will contact the memorial owner.
 - b) If, upon inspection, a memorial is considered to require repair work, Lympstone Parish Council will contact the memorial owner, giving details of the defects found and requesting

the memorial to be repaired within 3 months of the request date. If after this date no such work has begun, the Parish Council will be at liberty to arrange for repair works to be completed and for the cost to be charged to the registered contact. The Parish Council will use the Burial records contact details for this purpose.

c) In cases where there is no identifiable owner, Lympstone Parish Council will act to ensure the hazard is made safe.

7. Applications for interment will only be accepted in respect of people who have strong local connections. It is up to the PCs discretion to charge double fees and allow an interment to take place. It is important to note that residents occupying any new building or development on the boundary of Lympstone will not automatically be accepted to either a burial or ashes interment in the PCs cemetery or the double fee waived.

8. It is up to the PCs discretion to accept the choice of inscription used on a memorial head stone used in the sacred burial ground.

Lucy Tyrrell, Clerk and RFO to Lympstone Parish Council

Date of next review: February 2024