

# Easington Village Parish Council



## Cemetery Rules of Management

Durham Lane Cemetery

Easington Village

SR8 3BS

Cemetery Mobile: 07398 480819

Parish Office: 0191 5279360

Email: [deputy@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputy@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS WHICH APPLY**

Easington Village Parish Council has prepared this leaflet as a brief guide to all aspects of burial services at Durham Lane Cemetery, and contains information of benefit to private individual, families and businesses who use the cemetery premises.

If further information is required contact:

Easington Village Parish Council  
Seaton Holme  
Hall Walks  
Easington Village  
SR8 3BS  
Telephone: 0191 5279360  
Cemetery Mobile: 07398480819  
Parish Mobile : 07566275618

Email [deputy@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputy@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cemetery operational hours:

Monday – Thursday  
08:30am – 4:30pm (April – September) 3:30pm (October – March)

Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm (April – September) 2:30 (October – March)

This guide has been produced to help customers better understand the rules and regulations that apply and the range of services provided by Easington Village Parish Council at Durham Lane Cemetery. These rules and regulations are a necessary requirement for the management and maintenance of our cemetery, and every effort has been made to avoid restricting the rights and choices of the individual and relatives of the deceased, whilst ensuring the need to keep the grounds safe and tidy for both users and our staff in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### **Access Time**

Cemetery Grounds will be opened to the public from 8.30 am until dusk.

The Council may temporarily close the whole or any part of the Cemetery Grounds at short notice as often as, in the opinion of the Council, such closure is desirable.

### **General Conduct in the Cemetery**

The cemetery is a registered burial ground, and it is expected that all persons will behave in a dignified and respectful manner at all times within the cemetery.

Whilst in the Cemetery all persons shall comply with any directions given by the Cemetery Officer or council employee.

- Children under 14 years of age will not be allowed in the Cemetery grounds unless accompanied by an adult.
- Any person who wilfully destroys or damages or defaces any building or property in the Cemetery Grounds or causes disturbance or nuisance is liable to prosecution.



Where an Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased no grave will be opened for an interment, or the burial or interment of cremated remains without the written consent of the owner of the Right. If the owner is deceased, an indemnity in the form prescribed by the Council must be completed by the assignee of the right or the personal representative of the deceased.

### **After the Burial**

Backfilling of graves will not normally begin until mourners have left the cemetery grounds.

Graves will be left slightly mounded to allow for settlement. Flowers delivered at the time of the burial will be carefully placed on the grave by the groundsmen once backfilling has been completed.

Seeding over of the grave plot will be carried out by cemetery staff following a period of settlement, over a minimum period of twelve weeks during which time the grave will be topped up with soil as necessary. (Settling of graves may occasionally take longer than twelve weeks depending on weather and ground conditions)

Any plants or items found on the area to be seeded will be carefully relocated to the memorial area at the head of the plot to allow seeding to take place.

Mourners are respectfully advised not to place ornaments or plants on the grave during this settlement time as weather and ground conditions can result in rapid overnight settlement.

Grant holders are requested to remove any wreaths or flowers that were placed on a grave after the funeral as soon as they become wilted or weather-worn. Council employees, at the direction of the Cemetery Superintendent, may remove and dispose of wilted flowers or wreaths which have not been removed by visitors.

### **Selection and Purchase of Graves**

There are two types of graves available in the cemeteries:

#### **A Purchased Grave Burial Plot**

A single purchased grave is one where the Exclusive Right of Burial has been bought to allow for the interment of one coffin and up to four caskets of cremated remains.

A double purchased grave is one where the Exclusive Right of Burial has been bought to allow for the interment of two coffins and up to four caskets of cremated remains.

It is not possible to reserve a second grave space unless an initial grave space has been purchased for immediate use.

Grave spaces must be purchased in a continuous row. A second grave may be purchased which will be situated directly adjacent to the first space.

Grave spaces can be purchased by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council at which time a grave deed will be issued as proof of ownership.

No purchaser of an exclusive right of burial grave shall convey, assign or transfer such right without the written consent of the Council.

The Council may, upon request, agree to the re-purchasing of a grave from the owner if no interment has taken place, or where the remains have been removed and no cremated remains have been interred therein.

A Deed of Surrender by the registered owner and the original Deed of Grant will be required by the Council and upon receipt a payment of one half of the current fee will be paid to the registered owner.

### **A Memorial Garden Cremated Remains Plot**

This is a smaller purchased space which allows for either the erection of a memorial stone or for the interment of up to two appropriate caskets containing cremated remains.

Cremated remains are not to be 'scattered' anywhere within Durham Lane Cemetery. All cremated remains must be interred in the correct manner.

### **Public Graves**

Public graves are the responsibility of Easington Village Parish Council and cannot be purchased by private individuals. Memorials are not allowed on public graves, but as an alternative, a memorial may be placed in the memorial garden at the appropriately published fee.

### **Lawn Graves and Memorial Area**

To allow for the maintenance of the grassed areas, all surfaces will be turfed flat with an area for a memorial to be erected. A grave must be purchased for a memorial to be installed.

No earth mound will be permitted, and no planted flowers, shrubs, plants or trees will be permitted on any grave space. No grave space shall be enclosed with fences, kerbs or gravel surrounds. Easington Village Parish Council have the authority to remove any item which contravenes these rules without prior notification.

The turfed area shall be maintained solely by Easington Village Parish Council. Maintenance staff may not be able to cut grass around planted or decorated graves where access is restricted as to do so may cause damage to items placed in or on grave plots. The Parish Council cannot accept any responsibility damage to any plants or other items placed in or around graves.

### **Permanent Memorials**

All memorials and inscriptions are subject to the approval of the Council. No work shall be carried out before Council approval is granted and a memorial permit is issued by the Clerk to the Parish Council.

- No memorial will be permitted on a grave until a minimum period of six months following the interment or at the discretion of the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- An application on the prescribed form signed by the owner and the person who is to carry out the works, which is to be forwarded to the Clerk to the Parish Council with payment.
- Monumental work cannot start until the Clerk to the Council has issued a memorial permit.
- Monumental work will only be permitted during normal working hours and must be supervised by a Council employee.

- No memorial of part thereof shall be removed from the Cemetery without prior approval of the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- No memorial shall be erected if there are no remains interred in the grave.
- Memorial Masons must be properly insured for any undertaking of work in a Cemetery, and written proof lodged with the Clerk to the Parish Council prior to any works being carried out.
- Stonemasons and contractors must use mats, boards and other suitable materials to protect grass, plants and other memorials at all times whilst the works are undertaken. The site of the work shall be left in a clean and tidy state. Surplus materials and refuse must be removed at the end of each working day and immediately upon the completion of the works.

Any memorial erected in contravention of these regulations may be removed and the cost of removal charged to the person who erected it.

### **Memorial Specifications**

All stonemasons carrying out memorial work in the Council's cemeteries must adhere to the code of working practice issued by the National Association of Memorial Masons.

All memorials must be constructed of the best natural quarried stone. Any other material, including artificial stone, is not permitted and may be removed by the Council. Memorials must be supported and constructed to the satisfaction of the Cemetery Superintendent on behalf of the Council.

No memorial will be permitted which exceeds:

- 3ft 6inches high
- Is less than 3 inches thick
- The width of the grave
- Kerbstones are not permitted
- All headstones should be dowelled to the foundation slab and be supported on a minimum of 6 inches (150mm) of concrete.

The name of the Monumental Mason may be inscribed at the bottom left-hand side of the memorial.

### **Maintaining Memorials**

**It is the responsibility of the grave owner to maintain and repair any damage to the memorial.**

Easington Village Parish Council strongly advises owners to take appropriate insurance cover is taken to protect against accidental damage or vandalism. A reputable stonemason should be able to provide advice on this matter.

### **Warning Notice on Memorials.**

Memorials within the cemetery are regularly inspected for safety reasons, and if a memorial is found to be in a dangerous condition, the Council will either place a warning notice on it or, if it is deemed to be a significant hazard, the stone will be laid flat on the ground. In both cases an attempt to contact the owner will be made.

If the owner of the grave space cannot be traced or repairs are not carried out in a reasonable time, the Council may have to take one of the following courses of action:

- Carry out the necessary repairs to the memorial and may recover the cost thereof from the owner.
- Remove and store the memorial or,
- Dismantle the memorial, lay the headstone flush with the ground or
- Remove and dispose of the memorial, if it is beyond repair.

Further interments in such a grave will not be allowed until the cost of carrying out the works has been settled.

### **Vase and Flower Holders**

Vases and flower holders may be placed on purchased graves without specific approval subject to the following conditions:

- The holder must be placed at the head of the grave so as not to impede grass cutting.
- The holder must not be made of glass or pottery.
- It must not be affixed to the grave or any memorial thereon.
- The holder is placed on the grave at the owner's risk, and the Council will not be liable in the event of its loss or damage however caused.
- Any vase or flower holder not complying with the Council's conditions will be treated as any other memorial for the purposes of the regulations.
- The holder is placed on the grave at the owners risk and the Council will not be liable in the event of its loss or damage however caused.
- It is suggested that the grave number is marked on the base of the flower holder so that if it is displaced it can be repositioned on the correct grave.

### **Renewal of Exclusive Right of Burial**

When the period of exclusive right of burial expires, the next of kin should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council if they wish to renew the exclusive right so that the appropriate application can be made.

### **Cemetery Records**

Plans of the Cemetery showing the various sections and individual grave spaces, together with the Burial Registers are available for inspection by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council. There is no charge for this service.

### **Grave Searches**

Easington Village Parish Council maintain the statutory burial records for Durham Lane Cemetery. Enquiries are received from members of the public wishing to locate the place of burial of their relatives.

If you wish to locate a family member who may be buried in Durham Lane Cemetery, please contact the Parish Council on telephone number 0191 5279360 or e-mail: [clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The information required to conduct the search includes:

- The full name of the deceased
- The approximate month/year that the person was interred
- Any further details that can be supplied to assist with the search

### **Memorial Benches**

The Council occasionally accepts the donation of a memorial bench however, the type and quality of the bench must be approved in advance. The siting of benches is restricted to certain locations within the cemetery and is at the discretion of the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Any enquiries regarding the donation of a memorial bench should be made direct to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

### **Residency and Charging**

The Parish Council reserve the right to prioritise the allocation of grave spaces to residents of Easington Village, at the operational discretion of the Clerk to the Council. Each case is considered individually but in basic terms a resident will be considered as being:

- A Resident is a person who has resided within the Parish of Easington for the previous consecutive 12 months or more.
- A person who was previously a resident of the Parish and left for reasons of care will be deemed a resident.
- A member of the Armed Forces will be deemed a resident if their former permanent address was within the Parish for 12 consecutive months or more.
- The council reserves the right to request proof of residency for example a Council Tax Bill or Electoral Roll entry proving residency within the Parish.

The scale of charges for Exclusive Right of Burial, Burials Fees and memorials are reviewed on a regular basis and are approved by the Parish Council. The current scale of charges is attached at **Annex A**.

### **Useful Contacts and Support Information**

A list of useful contacts and support information for the bereaved is attached at **Annex B**.



## Easington Village Parish Council

Seaton Holme, Hall Walks, Easington Village, SR8 3BS

Telephone: 0191 5279360

Email : deputy@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@easingtonvillageparishcouncil.gov.uk

### CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2025

#### DURHAM LANE CEMETERY, EASINGTON VILLAGE, SR8 3BA

	Resident	Non Resident
<b>Exclusive Right</b>		
Grave Spaces (All Spaces)	£170.00	£330.00
Cremated Remains Space	£50.00	£100.00
<b>Interment Fees</b>		
Adult - Single Depth	£230.00	£460.00
Adult - Double Depth	£350.00	£690.00
Cremated Remains	£60.00	£110.00
Child under 16 years	£0.00	£0.00
Still born	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Memorial Charges</b>		
Erection of Headstone or Tablet	£80.00	£150.00
Erection of Vase	£30.00	£60.00
Added Inscription	£30.00	£60.00
<b>Additional Fees</b>		
Transfer of Deed	£30.00	£30.00

~ A Resident is a person who has resided in The Parish of Easington for the previous 12 months or more

~ A member of the Armed Forces will be deemed a resident if their former permanent address was within the Parish

~ A person who was a resident in the Parish and left for reasons of care will be deemed a resident

~ The Council reserves the right to require proof of residency for example a Council Tax Bill or Electoral Roll entry proving residency within the Parish

Useful Contacts and Support Information

Bereavement helplines and counselling services

**Cruse Bereavement Care (Bereavement Counselling)**

[www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk](http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk) Tel 01325 288633

**Compassionate Friends (Support & Friendship by those Similarly Bereaved)**

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

Tel 0345 123 2304

**Age UK County Durham**

[info@ageukcountydurham.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukcountydurham.org.uk)

Tel 0191 386 3856

**At a loss**

[www.ataloss.org](http://www.ataloss.org)

Tel 0800 4480800

**UK Care guide**

<https://ukcareguide.co.uk/dealing-with-bereavement>

**Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths**

[www.fsid.org.uk](http://www.fsid.org.uk)

Tel 08088026868

**24 Hour Cot Death Helpline**

Tel 02072332090

**Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society (SANDS)**

[www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

Tel 0207 436 5881

**Child Death Helpline**

[www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk](http://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk)

Tel: 02078138416

**The Natural Death Centre, London**

[www.naturaldeath.org.uk](http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk)

Tel 01962712690