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YNYS WEN CEMETERY GUIDELINES

The cemetery is owned and managed by Valley Community Council. These regulations are enforced in order to keep the cemetery a safe place for all to visit and work while keeping access for the less able as easy as possible. This also helps to keep them well maintained and visually pleasant.

1. Burial Rights

The Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial within a grave does not convey any ownership of the land itself. The ownership of the cemetery land, including the grave surface, remains with Valley Community Council.

Instead, the person registered with the council as the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial will have the sole right to decide who may be interred within the grave. The Exclusive right of Burial also includes the right to have a memorial, of a design and method of construction approved by the Council, installed on the grave plot.

2. Authorised Persons

Only undertakers and masons approved by Valley Community Council may carry out work in the cemetery. Weather conditions permitting, all graves will be turfed within six months of a burial

3. Memorials

In order to erect a memorial, there must be an exclusive right of burial held for the plot in question. As the owner of an exclusive right of burial you must give authorisation before any headstone is placed on the grave. Any changes must be made in consultation with Valley Community Council and the approved undertakers and stone masons. **See also paragraph 7 below.**

4. Permanent memorials.

The approved undertakers and stone masons will ensure that all new memorials are in keeping with existing memorials.

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Headstone: (All measurements are maximum size allowed)

1. Material - can be made of any suitable natural stone
2. Height - including base and plinth, the headstone should not exceed 915mm (3ft) from ground level
3. Width – it should be no more than 610mm (2ft) wide
4. Bases – should not exceed 610mm (2ft) width and 400mm (1ft4ins) deep
5. Thickness – the stone should be between 50-102mm (2-4 inches) thick

5. Temporary memorials

A temporary wooden cross may be placed on the grave. Should the cross fall into disrepair the Council have the right to remove it.

Wooden Cross:

1. Height – the cross should not exceed 915mm (3ft) from ground level
2. Width – it should be no more than 610mm (2ft) wide
3. Fixing – it is recommended that one third of the total height be below ground to keep the cross stable.

6. Children's Graves and Cremated Remains

Permanent Memorials – as in 4 but restricted to a height of no more than 610mm (2ft)

Temporary Memorials – as in 5 but restricted to a height of no more than 610mm (2ft) x 450mm (18ins). wide

7. Rules relating to Memorials

When tending a grave please note the following rules which have been introduced for the benefit of ALL users of the cemeteries

- a) All memorials, planting and other items placed on the graves must be located in the headstone area leaving the lawn area clear for access, mowing and other maintenance.
- b) Full length gardens, memorials and mounds are not permitted.
- c) All vases, statues, plants and flowers etc. that are left on graves are left at the owner's risk.
- d) All unfixed memorials and tributes must be placed inside this allotted area of the headstone.
- e) Any unauthorised memorials or tributes falling into disrepair may be removed without notice at discretion of the Council.
- f) Loose stone chippings are not permitted
- g) All litter and dead flowers to be disposed of in the bins provided.
- h) No lighting of any type may be placed on or around any grave.

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- i) All vases, statues, plants and flowers etc. that are left on graves are left at the owner's risk.
- j) Planting of flowers and shrubs at the cemetery is prohibited

8. Safety

Responsibility for any memorial erected on a grave lie with the person named on the Deed pertaining to it. That person should be aware of the possibility of an unsafe memorial falling and causing damage or injury. Valley Community Council will undertake regular risk assessments and any memorial which is considered a potential safety hazard may be removed without notice to the owner.

9. Damage to Graves

Valley Community Council will not be held responsible for any damage caused to a grave or memorial. All contractors employed by the Council will hold relevant insurance e.g. grave digging or maintenance operations. **It is recommended that memorials are insured against accidental or willful damage.**

10. Exhuming a deceased body

Exhumation of both buried and cremated remains generally requires a Home Office licence.

11. The following basic rules should also be noted:

- All dogs brought into the cemetery should be kept on a lead.
- Dog owners must ensure that any dog waste is bagged and dispose of in the bins provided.
 - All vehicles excluding contractor vehicles and disabled vehicles are excluded from the main cemetery area.
- All vehicles are parked on the grounds at the owners own risk.
- Overnight parking is not permitted.

Please contact the clerk of the council if you have any queries or need further information on valleycommunitycouncil@gmail.com .