

## ADDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Date of Parish Council Meeting</b>	Tuesday 28 June 2022
<b>Agenda Item Number</b>	<i>Item 10 (iv)</i>
<b>Author</b>	Theresa Goss
<b>Title of Report</b>	Parish Council's Policy on Reservations of Burial Plots in Adderbury Cemetery.
<b>Summary</b>	To review the Reservations Policy for Adderbury Cemetery and also to review the policy on restoring turf after burials.
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>The Reservations Policy be reviewed and the Parish Council to determine whether the current reservations which have expired, should still be honoured.</p> <p>If so, the fee and time period need to be agreed and these changes should be applied to all reservations when they are renewed.</p> <p>The PC to decide whether to exclude from the renewals process, plots which were reserved next to an original burial, due to the original plot not being able to be dug enough (due to stone) for a double burial and the husband/wife wanting to be buried together.</p> <p>Update the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to state that after a burial, the turf which has been removed when the grave is dug, will be replaced back on the grave space, by the grave digger. Also, Funeral Directors be asked to highlight paragraph 18 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to families after the purchase of a plot.</p> <p>If possible, the Parish Council has an agreement signed by the purchaser of the grave agreeing to ensure the ground is reinstated.</p>
<b>Reasons for the Recommendation</b>	<p>The original policy was agreed in 2009 and given the number of reservations which have expired, through non-renewal by the purchaser, the Parish Council needs to review the policy moving forward.</p> <p>To ensure that the Cemetery looks tidy and is easy as possible for the contractors to maintain.</p>
<b>Impact on Budget</b>	N/A
<b>Risks</b>	The Parish Council should be seen to be applying its own policies to reservations and maintenance of the Cemetery.
<b>Background</b>	<p>In 2009, the Parish Council agreed that new reservations of burial plots in Adderbury Cemetery would no longer be permitted.</p> <p>Burials in Adderbury Cemetery are currently permitted to residents and</p>

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	<p>those with a strong connection to the village.</p> <p>There are currently 22 plots in Adderbury Cemetery which are reserved and are a mixture of residents and non-residents.</p> <p>In 2009, the Parish Council agreed that the reservations which had already been made for 15 years and would be honoured, as long as the person who had made the reservation, contacted the Parish Council when their 15 years had expired and paid the fee. It is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to make contact.</p> <p>Five reservations have now expired and renewal fees have not been paid.</p> <p>Five plots have been reserved due to the plot which was originally purchased for a burial, not being able to be dug deep enough for a double grave (due to stone) and the husband/wife wanted to be buried together. No fee was paid when the reservation was made due to the circumstances of the original plot not being suitable for a double when the original burial was made and the purchasers were not asked to renew the reservation either.</p> <p>There are five plots which have been reserved and should have been renewed in either 2019 or 2020. These reservations have been made by non-residents of the village.</p> <p>The remaining twelve reservations are all in date and are a mixture of residents (6) and non-residents (6). I don't recommend that we make any changes to the reservations for these plots, except that when they are reserved again, a standard fee of £100 is paid and the reservation be reduced to 10 years.</p> <p>With regard to planting on plots, the Clerk has contacted families reminding them of the rules and regulations, but many graves do not follow this and there have been some recent burials, which have been deliberately left un-turfed.</p>
<b>Supporting documents; advice, reports etc should always be attached to the report and listed here</b>	<p>Current rules and regulations attached.</p> <p>The previous reservation fees have varied between £30 and £69. It is unclear how and when these figures were agreed.</p>