

## **Item 12 a Clerk's Notes - Cemetery Regulation Suggestions**

- **Not to allow grave reservations**

Due to the very limited amount of space available it is suggested that grave reservations are no longer permitted in the cemetery. This is common practice in the area as lots of cemeteries are running out of space (Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage don't allow reservations) The grave/ashes spaces that have already been reserved will of course be honoured but it is becoming very difficult for the grave diggers to be able to dig the spaces in between existing graves.

- **Not to allow further burial or ashes of non-residents**

Many interments are from non-residents as several local cemeteries do not allow this.

We currently charge double fees for non-residents.

Abingdon - Charge 300%

Wantage – Do not allow (some applications are taken to council meetings with exceptional circumstances)

Didcot – Charge 300%

- **Not to allow alcohol receptacles (full or empty) or any glassware onto graves as memorials**

There are many bottles of alcohol being left on graves (some full/some empty). This is not helpful for deterring young people sitting in the cemetery in the evening. The bottles get thrown around and smashed. Also in grass cutting season glass items are easily broken with the trimmers and grass cutters.

**I recommend that the following regulations be amended, to include no glass on graves:**

*28 No receptacles other than flower vases specially designed for the purpose or plant pots may be placed on grave spaces.*

*29 No monuments, headstones or flower vases shall be permitted without the consent of the Council and upon payment of the prescribed fees and deposit of the appropriate application form plus a detailed sketch of the memorial (which includes all measurements above and below ground, width and depth of plinth etc).*

*30 All monuments, headstones or flower vases shall remain at the sole risk of the owners of the graves.*