

East Coker Cemetery Policy

adopted on the 8th November 2023

Plots are only available to those who live in the parish of East Coker. Dispensation is given to those who have lived in the Parish but who have been in long term care up to 2 years from their previous known address in the East Coker Parish

Plots have a tenure of 75 years.

All plots to be prepared for two interments in the first instance at the required depth 8ft or lower if for 3 interments.

Ashes plots should be prepared for max 2ft in depth

No plots can be pre-purchased. They can only be purchased on an at need basis.

No fees are applied for graves of children up to and including 16 years of age.

All memorials and inscriptions are to be approved by the Parish Council and applications detailing size, dimensions and material together with the full inscription to be submitted to the Parish Clerk.

All memorials are the private property of the holder of the exclusive right of burial, and they shall maintain the memorial in a safe and good condition. Any memorial deemed unsafe will require a notification order and will be sent to the grave owner giving details as to its condition. Failure to take appropriate and remedial action to make the memorial safe will give reason to the Parish Council to take further action and the cost shall be borne by the grave owner.

Any additional inscriptions to be added should be submitted in writing to the Parish Clerk for approval by the Parish Council.

All memorials must not exceed 4ft in height.

All memorials should bear the grave plot number discretely on the rear of the base of the stone.

All memorials must be made of materials that will bear continuous exposure to the weather. Memorials made of wood, china, porcelain, terracotta, artificial stone, concrete, or any other materials will not be permitted.

Silk or artificial flowers are not permitted.

Glass vases or containers for floral decoration are not permitted.

Seasonal wreaths are permitted but must be removed after a period of 6 weeks.

No kerbs, railings or stones, chippings, shingle, gravel or anything that defines the enclosed area of the grave shall be permitted.

Funeral Directors should be instructed in regard to grave preparation for funerals and for the removal of a memorial in preparation for a funeral.

Only memorial masons affiliated to NAMM (National Association of Master Masons) should be instructed to provide new and work with existing memorials within the Cemetery.

The Parish Council reserve the right to remove or alter memorials in any way they deem necessary for the due order of the Cemetery.

The Parish Council reserve the right to remove any object considered a hazard to public safety or to those working in the Cemetery.

Permission must be sought from the Parish Council for the planting of shrubs, trees, and or the placing of seats or benches within the Cemetery.

The Parish Council reserve the right after a grant of exclusive rights has exceeded the agreed tenure to reclaim the grave ownership for the purpose of re-use.

The Cemetery is in a rural location and is occupied by a variety of wildlife which occasionally causes damage to paths, graves and floral arrangements. The Parish Council would seek to repair such damage to the best of its ability but cannot guarantee its effectiveness.

All visitors to the Cemetery should treat the area with respect and dignity, no parties, drinking of alcohol, causing a nuisance, playing ball games are permitted in the Cemetery.

No Smoking is allowed inside the Cemetery Grounds

Dogs are allowed but must be on a lead. Owners must clear up their dog waste immediately and remove it from the Cemetery.

Any damage wilfully executed or accidental in the Cemetery, its boundaries, walls, structures, fences, paths, grounds must be repaired to the satisfaction of the Parish Council and will be borne by the party causing the damage.

Any matter the public wishes to raise regarding the Cemetery and its environs should submit it in writing to the Parish Clerk