

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adopted 19th August 2025
Minute Reference: 2025/144

Ilton Parish Council aims to maintain Ilton Cemetery to the highest possible standard. The grass will be regularly cut and the trees pruned so that the Cemetery will look tidy.

A Register of Burials will be kept by the Parish Clerk in a locked cabinet. By arrangement, searches may be made and certified extracts obtained on payment of the appropriate fee.

1. RULES AND REGULATIONS

In order that the Cemetery is respected and kept as a sacred place of peace and repose, bicycles and dogs, except for guide dogs, are not allowed.

All visitors to the Cemetery are expected to observe perfect order and decorum in all respects.

The Parish Council reserves the right to take appropriate action if anyone contravenes any of the following

- wilfully destroys or damages any building or fence belonging to the Cemetery
- destroys or damages any tree or plant therein
- puts up any poster
- wilfully destroys, damages or defaces any monument, tablet, inscription or headstone in the Cemetery
- wilfully does any other damage
- plays any game or sport or discharges firearms (except at a military funeral) in the Cemetery
- wilfully and unlawfully disturbs any persons assembled in the Cemetery for the purpose of burying anybody therein, or commits any nuisance within the grounds or otherwise

2. INTERMENTS

The Parish Council provides double and single grave plots and plots for the interment of ashes from cremations.

Arrangements for funerals are usually made through funeral directors. Funeral Directors must give full details of the deceased and agree dates and times with the Parish Clerk before final consultation with their customers. Interment fees will be required before the funeral takes place. A Certificate from the Registrar of Births & Deaths must be produced to the Clerk and every information given to him / her which can reasonably be required. No interments are permitted on a Sunday.

In all cases of interment, the regulations issued by the Secretary of State for the Home Office must be observed.

The selection of burial place is in all cases both of general interment and of purchase; to be subject to the approval of the Parish Council but the wishes of the applicant will be met as far as may be deemed practicable.

Every grave to be not less than 7 feet deep in the case of adults and 5 feet in the case of children, with the exception of cremation plots which must be no less than 3 feet deep.

The normal grave plot is 9 feet by 4 feet, and may be either a purchased grave, or a common grave, according to whether or not exclusive rights of burial have been granted.

All graves will be sold subject to the present or any future regulations issued or to be issued with regard to burial grounds by His Majesty's Secretary of State or other competent authority.

The purchase of an Exclusive Right of Burial in any grave space gives no claim to the interment of non-parishioners except in the case of the immediate descendants or relatives of the original purchaser. Every other case, as it arises, must be submitted to the Parish Council.

Assignments of Exclusive Rights of Burial must be in the form prescribed by the Parish Council and at the expense of the applicant.

No grave in which an Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be opened without the consent, in writing, of the owner, which must be left at the address of the Clerk with the notice of burial. The Parish Council may require proof of ownership.

Cremated remains must always be interred in a purchased grave or a family grave in which exclusive rights have already been granted.

The Parish Council does not undertake the digging of graves. This is the responsibility of the funeral director who is also responsible for re-turfing the surface of the grave immediately after burial in such a way as to allow for settlement and remove any excess soil from the cemetery. In no case shall the bare earth be left exposed.

The Parish Council cannot undertake the tending of individual graves and is responsible only for the general upkeep and good order of the Cemetery as a whole.

Where a memorial has been removed or where no memorial exists, the Parish Council reserves the right to turf graves over level with surrounding ground.

3. HEADSTONES

All materials and headstones must be conveyed into the Cemetery on suitable conveyances. Any damage done to any adjoining graves or headstones or to the walls or grounds or in any other respect is to be repaired by and at the expense of the person causing the same.

Drawings, approximately to scale, of every headstone and a copy of every proposed inscription must be submitted to the Clerk for approval by the Parish Council. Until such approval has been duly signified any erection or inscription must not be commenced. If erected or made without approval, the Parish Council may, without any notice, remove it and the owner shall be charged with the expense of the removal.

All gravestones, monuments or other memorials of any description to be installed on ground not affected by the grave, and all inscriptions on them must be approved by the Parish Council and the appropriate fee paid before erection.

The following types of memorials are not permitted:

- wooden memorials
- headstones exceeding 3' 6" in height on burial plots
- headstones exceeding 2' in height and/or width on cremation plots

All monuments, memorials, tablets and headstones of every kind and every inscription, are to be kept in good repair and good order by the owners. If, after notice given by the Parish Council to any owner or his or her representatives or if after notice has been exhibited for a reasonable time in some conspicuous place in the Cemetery, the proper repairs are not carried out to the satisfaction of the Parish Council, the Parish Council will carry out the necessary repairs and charge the costs to the owner.

Ilton Parish Council will endeavour to protect all stonework but cannot be held responsible for damage or theft. The Parish Council reserves the right, on Health and Safety grounds, to take immediate action with regard to any monument which could reasonably be suspected of representing a danger.

4. PLANTING

With immediate effect, no plants or trees can be planted in the Cemetery. Any previously planted trees may be maintained as required by the Parish Council.

No glass or plastic containers can be placed on any grave or left in the Cemetery.

From 1st January 2026 there are to be no plastic flowers placed in the Cemetery.

The Parish Council respectfully asks that all dead flowers are placed into the bin provided.

The Parish Council reserves the right from time to time to make any alterations to this charter. All enquiries concerned the Cemetery should be addressed to the Parish Clerk; clerk@iltonparishcouncil.gov.uk.