

Greetham Burial Ground

Instructions to Funeral Directors

(Document 4)

At the time of contacting Greetham Parish Council to arrange a funeral contact details of the deceased's next of kin must be provided.

The intention of these instructions is to maintain the pleasing visual and uniform operating procedures within the Burial Ground.

The funeral company will after agreement of the position of the burial plot being used, approach the excavation of the grave in the following manner: -

The funeral director will try to arrange for their grave digger to meet a representative of Greetham Parish Council at the Burial ground so that a marked-out plot can be clearly identified. This can be done by the Parish Clerk and Parish Chairman.

Where mechanical excavation of the grave is being used the excavator will run over boards or metal plates to protect the grass of the burial ground. Any damage to the grassed area or other items will be reinstated to its original condition by the funeral company undertaking the work within the burial ground. Non-compliance with this instruction will involve the Parish Council hiring its own contractors to reinstate the burial ground to its original condition and back charging the funeral company with the costs.

Spoil removed by the digging of the grave will be placed on a plastic sheet, or similar, to protect the surrounding grass.

The excavation of the grave will be governed by the Health and Safety at Work Act, Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996. Consideration should be given to the attendees of the funeral and the strength of the ground around the edge of the grave. Consideration should also be given to planking the grave surround to spread the load around the edge of the grave.

Backfilling of the grave will re-use the spoil originally removed in the digging of the grave with the final 100mm (4 inches) being of **non-stone bearing soil**. **Any piece of limestone exceeding 25mm (1 inch) shall be removed**. The grave should be backfilled to allow the final settled level to be level with the surrounding grass. If the grave does not settle to the level of the grass after 12 months the ground will need to be levelled by the Funeral Director. GPC will advise when that is the situation. Should this not be carried out within 18 months, GPC will invoice the Funeral Director £500 to cover the cost of hiring labour and equipment.

Surplus soil and stones will be removed from the burial ground by the funeral company and not left within the confines of the Burial Ground.

Kerbs around the burial plot are not allowed.

Headstones shall not exceed 0.91 metres (36 inches) in height and should not be more than the width of the grave. The depth back to front of the stone should be no more than 0.30 metres (12 inches)

All graves to be marked with a name marker until a stone is set. A permanent marker must be set within a period of 12 months.

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