

COtherstone PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Matters

Author Clerk
Meeting date 13 February 2019

1. Cemetery matters to report since meeting held 9 January 2019

- a. Enquiry to confirm fee for right to erect plaque in Garden of Remembrance (Clerk confirmed as £90)
- b. Request via Bambridge Memorials for permission for additional inscription on existing headstone saying, 'Christine Anne Hodgson', of the wording: Joseph Dennis Hodgson, a loving husband of Christine, devoted father and grandfather, died 12th July 2018 aged 77 years.
On advice of Cllrs Hunter and Watson, Clerk issue letter of permission. Due fee of £45 has been received.
- c. Request received from G Brownless & Son for Exclusive Right of Burial and interment of the late Alan Heavisides from Lartington and for Exclusive Right of Burial for Doreen Lowe of Lartington. Although a request was made for a double-depth grave, Clerk advised that this was not possible, and adjacent plots 46I and 46H were agreed upon, at £200 each, plus one interment fee of £75.
Subsequently, two further adjacent plots, 46F and 46G were purchased for Dorothy Heavisides and Joseph Allen Heavisides, both of Barnard Castle, at £400 each. Invoice for £1,275 issued 24 January.
- d. Request received from Ian and Diane Pennock to surrender the two Exclusive Rights of Burial, plots 45T and 45U. See below.
- e. Following discussion at January meeting, Clerk advised Gavin Lee that fee for interment of Chris Lee's ashes in Garden of Remembrance is £250 for space, £150 for interment and £180 to erect a plaque. Clerk answered several questions raised by Gavin. Family are happy with this and will set a date for 'sometime in April'. G Brownless & Son have been engaged by the family to prepare the plot and Wm Allison of Bishop Auckland will provide a memorial stone. Invoice for £580 issued 6 February.

2. Additional clause to Cemetery Rules: Surrender of Exclusive Right of Burial

Currently there is no provision in the Rules for the surrender of Exclusive Rights of Burial already purchased and no longer required. The following is a suggested addition to the Rules:

Cotherstone Parish Council will buy back graves which have not been used for burial and will refund the amount paid at the time of purchase less an administrative fee of £25.

OR

Cotherstone Parish Council will buy back a grave which has not been used and issue the owner with a refund of the original purchase payment, less the years of ownership and less an administrative fee of £25.

Procedure

The grave/plot owner will need to provide Cotherstone Parish Council with the following documents:

A completed Deed of Surrender of Right of Burial for each grave to be surrendered

The original Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for each grave to be surrendered

A short letter outlining the surrender instruction.

The formal date of surrender is when the Council receives the above documents. When received, the Clerk will calculate the refund owing for purchased remaining years on the Exclusive Rights of Burial. Any calculations prior to the formal date of surrender will be approximate refund figures only.

A Deed of Surrender of Right of Burial form is available for download from the Council website, or on request to the Clerk.

A draft Deed of Surrender form is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

1. That councillors note and approve cemetery matters which have been dealt with by the Clerk since the meeting on 9 January 2019.
2. Councillors agree additional information to be added to the Cemetery Rules regarding the surrender of Exclusive Right of Burial and approve the draft Deed of Surrender of Exclusive Right of Burial.

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

DEED OF SURRENDER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

I/We (full name)

Of (address)

Do hereby surrender to Cotherstone Parish Council the Exclusive Right of Burial, Grant number, of Grave number(s) in Cotherstone Cemetery and all my estate and title and interest therein including the Right to place a memorial at that location in accordance with the Cemetery Rules of Cotherstone Parish Council.

I/We confirm that the said Exclusive Right of Burial(s) has not been sold, transferred or otherwise dealt with.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have executed this Deed this Day of 20.....

Signed as a Deed by (person making surrender)
In the presence of (witness signature)
Witness name.
Witness occupation.

Signed as a Deed by (person making surrender)
In the presence of (witness signature)
Witness name.
Witness occupation.