

## Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the Burial Ground

The burial ground provides both consecrated and unconsecrated plots. The burial ground caters for all faiths and denominations. The Clerk can give advice on any matters relating to interments.

### Rules Specific to the Purchase of Plots and Interments.

1. Plans of the Burial Ground showing the grave and cremated remains spaces, are lodged with the Clerk to the Council. All information can be obtained from the Clerk.
2. The exclusive right of burial must be purchased prior to the interment of a body or cremated remains. The exclusive right of burial is for a period of 100 years. A Deed of Grant will be issued by the Parish Council in respect of each space purchased.
3. A person who purchases the right of burial shall not convey, assign or transfer such right without the permission of the Parish Council.

### Rules Specific to Interment in Graves

**Any person having purchased a right of burial is at liberty to inter therein one body. One reserved grave is permitted due to double depth graves not being permitted.**

4. Burials in metal caskets are not permitted.
5. Every person who inter a body in a grave space shall pay to the Parish Council fees in accordance with the Scale of Charges fixed by the Council
6. Each grave space shall be 4ft by 9ft and shall face east
7. All graves shall be turfed over by the Parish Council once the grave has settled. A charge may be made for this to cover the cost of the turf. No permanent mounds shall be allowed.

### Rules Relating to the Interment of Cremated Remains

8. Ashes should be buried at a depth of not less than 3ft (1 metre). Ashes must be buried in a wooden or suitable bio-degradable container - not a plastic or metal container. It is permissible to place ashes in the ground without a container.  
**Double depth cremated remains interments will be permitted, subject to this being requested at the time of the first interment and the relevant fee being paid to the Parish Council in respect of each interment.**
9. Interment of ashes in a cremation plot may be carried out without engaging an Undertaker. The Parish Council will inspect the cremation plot when it has been dug to ensure that it complies with the regulation depth of 3ft. The Parish Council is unable to provide a grave digging service, but can offer advice about suitable contractors.
10. It is **NOT** permissible to scatter ashes in the burial ground without the express permission of the Clerk. The location must be agreed beforehand.

### Permanent Memorials.

11. All memorials shall remain at the sole risk of the owners of graves and the Council shall **not** be responsible for any damage or breakage which may occur.

**Grave Spaces .**      Wooden plaque with inscription on brass plate.  
Simple headstones, not exceeding 4ft in height  
Tablet Books  
Flat cover slab, maximum size 6ft by 3ft.  
Kerbing height of 4" may be provided

**Cremation Plots**      Flat cover stones, maximum size 24" x 24

12. All memorial stones are to be of light coloured or black marble or light coloured natural

stone and must be fixed on a suitable sub-base. **All Memorials to be fitted with ground anchors.**

13. Every person wishing to erect a memorial must submit a drawing showing the form and materials of the stone, together with a copy of the intended inscription, to the Clerk. All designs are to be approved by the Parish Council before they are erected. Irreverent or facetious inscriptions are not permitted. Every person erecting a memorial shall pay **in advance** to the Parish Council, the appropriate fee as listed in the Scale of Charges
14. Memorials are to be kept in good repair by the owners.

### Planting

15. Planting is permitted in vases or other removable memorials. Any vases shall be placed at the base of the headstone, or at the head of the grave, or in the centre of the cremated remains plot
16. The planting of trees, shrubs or plants directly into the soil on graves or cremation plots **will not** be permitted.

### Rules Specific to Donations to the Burial Ground

17. Donations of shrubs, trees and smaller plants may be made.
18. Anyone wishing to make such donations must apply to the Parish Council in writing stating the nature of the donation, the nature of any plaque and inscription and who the donation is intended to commemorate. If acceptable, the Council will arrange a suitable site and inform the applicant.
19. It is recommended that donors discuss their plans with the Clerk before submitting an application.

### General Rules

20. Any person who shall wilfully destroy or damage any fence, gate, post, seat, railing, road within the Burial Ground, or destroy or damage any tree, shrub or plant, or wilfully destroy, damage or deface any stone, or do any wilful damage or commit any nuisance in the Burial Ground is liable to forfeit to the Parish Council on summary conviction a fine in accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Orders 1997, or the Criminal Damages Act, 1971.
21. No child under 12 years of age will be permitted in the Burial Ground unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
22. **No dogs**, other than guide dogs, will be permitted in the burial ground.
23. All dead flowers and litter should be deposited in the bins provided. Dead flowers and wreaths will be removed from graves at the discretion of the Council.
24. The water tap should be firmly turned off after use.
25. **If after six months of the grave settling, it remains in an unkempt or untidy condition, the Parish Council reserves the right to take over the maintenance of the grave.** This includes removing dead flowers, removing untidy or unsuitable plants and levelling and laying turf over graves. The Parish Council has absolute discretion in this matter.
26. The Parish Council reserves the right to review and alter these regulations and the scale of charges from time to time.
27. The Parish Council does not permit the purchase of graves for future use unless associated with an existing interment in which case one reserved grave will be permitted.

## 28 Gates

The pedestrian access gates are locked from sunset to 7.30 a.m. each day.

The vehicular access gates are only unlocked for Undertakers and Stonemasons by prior arrangement with the Clerk. It is important that at least three days' notice is given to the Clerk to ensure that access can be obtained.

### Scale of Charges - Charges apply to residents of the Parish of Berinsfield.

#### Purchase of Grave for person over 12 years of age

(immediate interment or reservation on 100 year lease)

Purchase of single grave	£485.00
Purchase of plot in cremated remains section for interment of ashes (single or double depth)	£240.00
Interment in a purchased plot	£345.00
Interment of ashes in a purchased plot	£150.00

Purchase of Grave and interment of still born baby or child up to 12 months	No charge
Purchase of Grave and interment for child 1 year - 12 years	No charge

#### Fees for Erection of all Memorials in Burial Ground exclusive of VAT.

VAT will be charged at 20%.

Headstone or tablet book	£190.00	VAT £38.00	£228.00
Kerbing, including headstone	£345.00	VAT £69.00	£414.00.
Flat stone over casket	£178.00	VAT £35.60	£213.60
Additional inscription	£73.00	VAT £14.60	£87.60
Addition of kerbs to existing headstone or tablet book	£150.00	VAT £30.00	£180.00

#### All charges to be doubled in respect of non-residents.

*A non-resident is any person who is not currently on the electoral roll for Berinsfield.*

All information in respect of procedures for purchase and interment can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

**All fees are payable in advance.** Cheques should be made payable to Berinsfield Parish Council and sent to :-

Mrs. A. Loveland, Clerk to the Council, Berinsfield Parish Council,  
"Highsett", Alchester Road, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 1UN  
Telephone : 01869 354135 E.mail : Clerk@berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

If the Clerk is not available, please leave a message on the answerphone or send an email.



## BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### BURIAL GROUND

Fane Drive,  
Berinsfield, Oxon.

## REGULATIONS AND SCALE OF CHARGES 1996

as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020

