



# Mary Tavy Parish Council Parish Cemetery

## CHARGES AND REGULATIONS

Reviewed and amended 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## **Introduction.**

In the early 1950s the parish churchyard had reached the point where there was no further space for burials and accordingly in April 1953 Mary Tavy Parish Council purchased land from the West Devon Mining and Power Company for the establishment of a parish cemetery. The Parish Council made formal application to the Bishop of Exeter and on the 8th June 1956 received a Sentence of Consecration which allowed the land to be used for burials in accordance with the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England.

Access to the cemetery is through the parish churchyard over which Mary Tavy Parish Council has a permanent Right of Way. This footpath is maintained by West Devon Borough Council as the churchyard is now classified as closed. The Parish Council also has a Right of Way for vehicular access across neighbouring farmland. This is strictly reserved for the use of contractors preparing graves or carrying out maintenance.

The Parish Council acts as the Burial Authority and has the legal responsibility for administration and maintenance of the cemetery. Accordingly, all fees charged for use of the cemetery are directed towards this purpose. Such income is placed in a separate fund, managed by the Parish Council, and strictly reserved for Maintenance and Capital Expenditure relating to the cemetery and for the future purchase of additional burial land. It is the intention of the Parish Council to run the cemetery to a high standard without incurring a financial burden which would become the responsibility of the Local Authority and the Community Charge payer.

The following regulations are drawn up by the Parish Council acting as the Burial Authority. There is no presumption that these regulations are totally definitive and it is the belief of the Parish Council that people will use the cemetery respectfully and with due regard for the sensibilities of other parishioners. However, the Parish Council reserves the right to amend these regulations whenever necessary. In accordance with current Best Practice, all fees and charges relating to the parish cemetery are subject to annual review.

All applications for the purchase of graves, burials, the interment of ashes and the installation of headstones and memorial tablets must be made to the Burial Clerk of Mary Tavy Parish Council.

## Charges with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### Part A - Interments

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Interment of the body of a person whose age at time of death exceeded ten years.               | £116.00 |
| 2. | Interment of the body of a person whose age at time of death was below ten years.              | £ 58.00 |
| 3. | Interment of a stillborn child or a child whose age at time of death did not exceed one month. | £ 24.00 |
| 4. | For the reopening of a grave.  | £ 75.00 |
| 5. | Interment of cremated remains.   | £ 67.00 |

**Note:** No differential to be made between parishioners and non-parishioners. The fees indicated for types 1 - 5 do not include the digging of the grave.

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 6. | The right to erect a headstone or memorial tablet (including initial inscription.) | £ 75.00 |
| 7. | Any additional inscription to a headstone or memorial tablet.                      | £ 44.00 |

**Note:** No reduction in interment fees will be made in the exceptional circumstances of a requirement occurring for a double burial to take place in the same grave space at the same time. The same charging restriction will apply to a similar application for a double interment of ashes.

## **Charges with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

### **Part B - Additional charges.**

**Search Fee** - A fee of £22 will now be charged for information provided from the Register of Graves and Burials kept by Mary Tavy Parish Council. This charge shall only be applied in respect of information supplied which is not required in connection with an application for which another fee is payable.

**Amendment Fee** - An Amendment Fee of £22 shall be charged in connection with any alterations to information contained within the Register of Graves and Burials. This charge shall also apply in respect of amendments relating to Certificates of Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial.

**Part C - Exclusive Right of Burial in an Earth Grave (including cost of Deed of Grant.)**

**Note:** The Parish Council does not allow the construction of walled graves.

Single grave = 6' deep or metric equivalent

Double grave = 7' 6" deep or metric equivalent

Grave size is sold as 8' x 4' or metric equivalent

1. In a site selected by the Parish Council (generally the next adjoining space.)

| <b>Parishioners</b> |             | <b>Non-Parishioners</b> |             |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Single £149         | Double £223 | Single £223             | Double £331 |

2. Child's Plot.

| <b>Parishioner</b> | <b>Non-Parishioner</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| £41                | £91                    |

**Note:** Grave size is sold as 3' 6" x 2' or metric equivalent

**Purchases of Exclusive Right of Burial.**

Please note that for the purpose of Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial the status of "Parishioner" (as listed under charges in the Information Booklet) shall now also apply in respect of burial plots purchased by or for persons living in Residential Nursing Homes outside of the Parish, provided that the names of such persons have appeared on the Electoral Roll for Mary Tavy within the period relating to the previous three years from the date of purchase. Any queries arising in connection with the interpretation of this definition should be referred to the Parish Clerk.

**Charges with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**Part D - Exclusive Right of Burial of Cremated Remains (including cost of Deed of Grant.)**

**Note:** Plot size is sold as 3' x 3' or metric equivalent

In a site selected by the Parish Council (generally the next adjoining space in the area reserved for the interment of ashes.)

| <b><u>Parishioners</u></b> |             | <b><u>Non-Parishioners</u></b> |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Single £75                 | Double £116 | Single £116                    | Double £165 |

**Regulations for Headstones and Memorials.**

1. Headstones on an earth grave must not exceed a maximum size of 36” high x 36” wide x 14” deep or metric equivalent.
2. The pattern of a headstone on an earth grave must be such as to incorporate a flower vase within its foot.
3. In order to ensure compliance with current Health & Safety requirements all headstones installed after 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 must be fitted with a proprietary anchorage system as recommended by a qualified monumental mason. In the event of a removal of a headstone installed prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 caused by the reopening of a grave and / or the addition of a further inscription the headstone must be retrospectively fitted with a proprietary anchorage system before being reinstalled in the Parish Cemetery.
4. As from the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 all new headstones and memorial tablets must be engraved with the official grave space identification code provided at the time of purchase or used by the Burial Clerk to Mary Tavy Parish Council. This identification code may be engraved on the rear face of the memorial where size and shape makes this possible.
5. Graves are not allowed to have kerbs, earth mounds or separate flower vases.
6. Memorial tablets above cremated remains must not exceed a maximum size of 21” x 21” or metric equivalent.
7. Cremated remains must be interred in a bio-degradable container.
8. No headstone or memorial tablet may incorporate a photographic or other representation of the deceased.
9. Any inscription must be simple, reverent and in keeping with what would be expected in a rural churchyard or cemetery. The Burial Committee of Mary Tavy Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any application which does not conform with this requirement.
10. The Burial Committee recognises that, immediately after an interment, the number of floral tributes may completely cover the grave space and the area immediately surrounding it. Once these floral tributes are sufficiently degraded they will be removed for recycling and / or disposal. Subsequent floral tributes laid on such a grave should be limited in number and placed only at the head of the grave where a headstone will eventually be placed.

11. Occasions may occur, such as an anniversary, when the number of floral tributes placed on a grave will exceed the capacity of the standard flower vase integral to the base of the headstone. The Burial Committee expects this to be an exceptional circumstance as the proliferation throughout the year of flower vases and their contents only serves to create difficult and time-consuming working conditions for our contractor. However, on the grounds of Health & Safety any temporary additional containers must be made from a shatter-proof material. Glass, plastic and other brittle materials are expressly forbidden and the Parish Council reserves the right to remove and dispose of any found in the cemetery.

12. The planting of shrubs, plants and flowers on or around graves is not allowed.

13. It is recommended that headstones and memorial tablets should be of granite or other stone local to the area. Any deviation from this preferred standard is strictly at the discretion of the Burial Committee of Mary Tavy Parish Council and is non-negotiable.

14. Floral tributes should be in keeping with the season of the year and the Parish Council reserves the right to remove floral tributes including those made of artificial materials when degraded by the elements.

15. It is permissible to place a small flower vase of a pattern recommended by a monumental mason on a plot used for the interment of ashes.

## **Points of Contact.**

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