



Grave Ownership & Installation of Memorials

Memorials can only be placed on graves by the registered owner. If applications are received from other relatives, the opportunity will be used to update the Deed Holder information.

Application Approval

A person wishing to install a memorial, undertake work on an existing structure, or include an additional subscription must complete an application form for approval by:

- Cemetery – Clerk to the Parish Council
- Churchyard – the Church Minister

The application must include full details of type, material, colour, dimensions and inscription, including the intention to use a border, crest or motif. In addition, payment of the fee prescribed in the scale of charges must accompany the application.

Design

Memorials for the Churchyard and Lower Cemetery must follow standards defined by the Diocesan Authority, whereas some flexibility may be allowed in the Upper Cemetery.

In all cases the preference is for design and materials that complement the overall appearance of the burial ground and the approval process will consider the style and position of adjoining graves.

Limiting components to headstones only, or inset stone tablet, is helpful as tomb style, kerbs or installation of other decorative items can inhibit maintenance. If a vase is being considered, integrating this into the base of the headstone is encouraged.

Inscriptions

Inscriptions should be limited to words cut into stone and not plastic or other applied letting. Any border design must be simple and no photographs or other images will be permitted.

Dimensions

The maximum permitted dimension of a headstone is 1200mm x 900mm but a design of lower profile is recommended. Experience has shown that taller headstones become more unstable over time and repairs are expensive.

Memorial Masons

All memorials must be constructed and installed by Memorial Masons who are members of BRAMM or NAMM and comply with their Code of Working Practice. This will include full compliance with pin dimensions and material, and the requirement for headstones to be fitted with a substantial ground anchor.

Ownership and Maintenance

The grave owner remains responsible for any installed memorial, including associated repair costs. However, the Parish Council will undertake regular safety checks and reserves the right to remove or alter the position of memorials if they become unstable or present a safety risk.

For further information, please contact:

Clerk to Blockley Parish Council – 01386 701602 parishclerk@blockley.org.uk