

Lambeth Cemetery

Rules and Regulations



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INTRODUCTION

We aim to provide the highest standards within our Cemetery Service to meet the needs of the bereaved and all those who visit our cemeteries. It is therefore essential that Cemetery Rules and Regulations are in place to maintain the dignity and sanctity of our cemeteries, as well as to inform all cemetery users of the reasonable requirements applicable to them, to enable us to effectively manage the service.

These Cemetery Rules and Regulations include the statutory requirements contained within the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 and any other relevant legislation governing this service.

We reserve the right to make any amendments, alterations or additions to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations as and when necessary or to impose temporary restrictions as and when necessary. We also reserve the right to close Lambeth Cemetery or limit entry, at any time. Everyone entering or using Lambeth Cemetery must abide by these Rules and Regulations at all times and the Bereavement Services Manager has full powers to exclude or remove anyone as they see fit, without stating any reason.

Lambeth adopted the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved on 1st July 2016. The Charter provides recognition of a Council's commitment to minimum standards and continual improvements to the services provided for the bereaved. Lambeth holds Silver accreditation under the Charter and is working towards Gold.

These Rules and Regulations apply only to Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, SW17 0BY.

All enquiries regarding Lambeth Cemetery should be directed to the cemetery office at:

Streatham Cemetery
Garratt Lane
Tooting
London
SW17 0LT

Tel: 020 7926 1625

Email: BereavementServices@lambeth.gov.uk

INTERPRETATION OF TERMS

Throughout these Regulations the following words or terms shall have the meaning set out below. Where the context requires, words in the singular can denote the plural and vice versa:

“the **Bereavement Services Manager**” means the person who has been delegated responsibility by the Council to manage the Cemetery and includes members of staff under their authority.

“a **Body**” means the body of a deceased person or their cremated remains brought into the Cemetery for burial.

“the **Cemetery**” means Lambeth Cemetery in Tooting, which is owned and maintained by the Council.

“the **Council**” means Lambeth Borough Council.

“a **Deed of Grant**” means the document issued by the Council to a person who has purchased the Exclusive Right of Burial.

“**Exclusive Right of Burial**” means the exclusive right of burial in a Grave or Vault specified in a Deed of Grant.

“**Executor**” means a person or institution appointed by a testator to carry out the terms of their will.

“**Faculty**” means a licence from the Diocese of Southwark for works on consecrated ground.

“**Grave**” means a burial place formed in the ground by excavation and without an internal wall of brickwork, stonework or any other artificial lining.

“**Grave Owner**” means the person named in a Deed of Grant.

“**Grave Space**” means the area allowed for the establishment of a Grave and in a position determined by the Council.

“**Memorial**” means any Gravestone, monument, tablet, kerb set, plaque, statue, desk, vase, headstone, footstone, kerbstone, cremation memorial or other form of memorial or stone of any description or similar ornament.

“**Memorial Rights**” means written authorised permission from the Council to erect and maintain a fixed Memorial for an agreed period of time.

“**Notifiable Disease**” is as per the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 and a list is provided online at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report#list-of-notifiable-diseases>

“**Plan**” means the Lambeth Cemetery plan which will be held at the Cemetery office and can be viewed, without charge, during office hours.

“**Private Grave**” means a Grave in respect of which the Council has granted an Exclusive Right of Burial.

“**Public Grave**” means a Grave for which no Exclusive Right of Burial is issued.

“**Vault**” means an underground burial place with an internal wall of brickwork and a concrete base which is a single chamber, or is divided into separate chambers each of which is sealed in an approved manner after each interment, and the vault sealed with top covers.

“**Working Days**” means any day excluding a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or any day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971.

OPENING TIMES

Cemetery office (at Streatham Cemetery, Garratt Lane)

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm (closed on Public Holidays)

Cemetery gates

1 April – 31 October

Monday – Friday: opened at 8.00am and locked at 6.00pm

Weekends: opened at 10.00am and locked at 4.00pm

1 November – 31 March

Monday – Friday: opened at 8.00am and locked at 4.00pm

Weekends: opened at 10.00am and locked at 4.00pm

Christmas Day: opened at 10.00am and locked at 2.30pm

1. MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Conduct in Cemetery Grounds

- 1.1 The Cemetery is provided as a tranquil area so that visitors can reflect and remember their loved ones. The Council requires that visitors act accordingly and respect the needs of others.
- 1.2 Article 18 of The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 (as amended) provides that no person shall:
 - a) wilfully create any disturbance in a cemetery
 - b) commit any nuisance in a cemetery
 - c) wilfully interfere with any burial taking place in a cemetery
 - d) wilfully interfere with any Grave or Vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter
 - e) play at any game or sport in a cemetery
 - f) enter or remain in a cemetery at any hour when it is closed to the public unless they are an officer or servant of the Council or are authorised by or on behalf of the Council.
- 1.3 Any person who contravenes any prohibition detailed above or any prohibition specified in Article 19 of the above-mentioned Order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 and in the case of a continuing offence to a fine not exceeding £10 for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.
- 1.4 All persons entering the cemetery will be subject to the order and control of the Bereavement Services Manager. Any persons who infringe these Rules and Regulations may be removed from the cemetery.
- 1.5 Children under twelve years of age are to be kept under the supervision of an adult at all times.
- 1.6 Visitors are to keep to the main roads and footpaths at all times except to the extent necessary in order to visit or attend to a Grave.
- 1.7 Visitors must conduct themselves in a quiet, orderly manner at all times.
- 1.8 No-one shall climb on or over any memorial, boundary wall, fence, gate or tree.
- 1.9 No dogs are permitted in the Cemetery except assistance dogs.
- 1.10 Dog owners must ensure that they bag and remove any fouling by their dog and place it into a rubbish bin.

Vehicles

- 1.11 All vehicles (motorised or not) are subject to the control and direction of the Bereavement Services Manager at all times when in the Cemetery.
- 1.12 The speed limit within the Cemetery is ten miles per hour.
- 1.13 The Council reserves the right to forbid the entry of any vehicle into the Cemetery.
- 1.14 Vehicles permitted to enter the Cemetery must not be parked anywhere other than designated parking areas or on roadways and must ensure that vehicular or pedestrian access is not impeded.

- 1.15 The Council accepts no liability for any loss or damage to or from any vehicle whilst within the Cemetery.
- 1.16 The Bereavement Services Manager may require the immediate removal of any vehicle from the Cemetery at any time.
- 1.17 Vehicles must not be driven in any part of the Cemetery other than roadways and parking areas.
- 1.18 Access for vehicles is only allowed for the purpose of visiting the Cemetery, attending a funeral or working within the Cemetery. Other vehicles can only park within the Cemetery if they hold a valid parking permit and have paid the appropriate fee.

Right of Passage

- 1.19 The Council reserves to itself and its employees, servants and agents the right of passage over any Grave for any purpose connected with the maintenance and management of the cemetery; and to remove any memorial from an adjoining Grave to facilitate an interment if this should be necessary. In the event of such action being necessary the cost of such works shall be borne by the person arranging the interment.

Liability of the Council

- 1.20 No liability whatsoever is accepted by the Council for any damage to property arising out of anything existing at the Cemetery or done by the Council, its employees, agents or servants or by any independent contractor at or in connection with the Cemetery.

Gratuities

- 1.21 No employee of the Council is allowed to solicit or receive any gratuity or payment for any work in connection with any Grave, Grave Space, Vault or Memorial.

Sale of Goods and Soliciting Orders

- 1.22 Unless expressly authorised to do so by the Bereavement Services Manager no person shall:
 - a) sell or offer or expose for sale within the Cemetery any goods, plants or articles; or
 - b) solicit within the Cemetery for the installation or repair of memorials or for any work connected with Graves or Vaults.

2. BURIAL REGULATIONS

- 2.1 No burial shall take place, no cremated human remains shall be buried or scattered and no Memorial or additional inscription shall be placed in the cemetery without the permission of the Bereavement Services Manager.

Burial Plot Plans

- 2.2 Plans for the Cemetery are held at the Cemetery office and can be viewed during office opening times.

Selection and Ownership of Graves

- 2.3 Every burial shall take place in a Private or Public Grave selected by the Bereavement Services Manager. No guarantee can be made to provide a specific plot, although the Council will try to accommodate the wishes of the applicant where possible.
- 2.4 Graves will be allocated on the basis of the next available Grave Space in the plot or area currently in use for burial purposes and will be at the ultimate discretion of the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 2.5 The Council reserves the right to reserve any portion of burial ground as it sees fit.
- 2.6 On the purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial in a Grave, a Deed of Grant shall be issued to the person on whose behalf the Exclusive Right of Burial is purchased. This person shall be registered in the records held by the Council as the owner of the Grave.
- 2.7 When a Grave is purchased the named Grave Owner will obtain the Exclusive Right of Burial in that Grave. This gives the Grave Owner(s) the right, during the period of tenure, to:
- a) Be buried in that Grave if space is available
 - b) Authorise burials in that Grave, where space is available, or the burial in, or scattering of cremated remains over, that Grave
 - c) Place a Memorial on that Grave, with or without inscriptions, subject to these Rules and Regulations and to the approval by the Council following the application for a Memorial Permit.
- 2.8 Purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial and subsequent issue of a Deed of Grant does not transfer ownership of any land. The Deed of Grant gives the Grave Owner the legal right of burial in that Grave (subject to space being available) for the period of time for which the Right is purchased.

Alterations to Arrangements

- 2.9 Once a booking for a burial has been made, no alteration of any details will be allowed unless notice is given in writing to the Bereavement Services Manager at least two Working Days before the time booked for the funeral.
- 2.10 Any alteration or cancellation notified less than two Working Days before the service is to take place will result in the appropriate fee being levied.

- 2.11 Any orders or instructions given by telephone are placed at the sole risk of the applicant and must be confirmed via email or in writing within one Working Day of the call.
- 2.12 The Council shall not be responsible for any misunderstandings or errors which may arise unless the instructions are confirmed in writing in accordance with clause 2.11 above.

Certification

- 2.13 No burial will be permitted without production of the certificate of death and a statutory declaration certificate signed by a funeral director or other person responsible for the arrangements of the person to be buried; or the Coroner's certificate where an inquest has been held. The appropriate document(s) must be submitted to the Bereavement Services Manager prior to a burial taking place.
- 2.14 The Council reserves the right to refuse to inter individuals with a Notifiable Disease at the time of death, due to potential environmental and wider health implications. The Bereavement Services Manager must be informed of any persons who have died from a Notifiable Disease prior to funeral arrangements being made.

Documents of Title for Burial

- 2.15 No Grave or Vault, to which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted, shall be opened or re-opened without the production of the Deed of Grant and/or the written consent of the Grave Owner(s).

Transfer of Burial Rights

- 2.16 Any transfer of the Exclusive Right of Burial shall not be deemed valid unless such a transfer has been registered at the Cemetery office (an appointment may need to be made to register such a transfer).
- 2.17 Where the current Grave Owner is alive and wishes to transfer ownership to another person or persons, a Form of Assignment must be completed.
- 2.18 Transfer of ownership of a Grave may take place where the registered Grave Owner is deceased, by submitting the following to the Cemetery office:
 - a) Letters of Administration
 - b) Proof of a named Executor who may then decide on ownership
 - c) Completion of a Statutory Declaration.

Possession of a Deed of Grant does not necessarily give ownership of the Exclusive Right of Burial. When a Grave Owner is deceased, the Council's Transfer of Burial Rights process will need to be carried out to establish a new "legal" Grave Owner.

- 2.19 All Graves and Vaults shall be opened and back-filled by Cemetery staff only. No Grave or Vault shall be opened beyond a depth of seven feet except by special permission. Ground conditions may prevent any specific depth being attained. No coffin shall be buried in a Grave unless separated from any other coffin already in the Grave by means of a layer of earth not less than six inches in thickness.

Coffins

- 2.20 A Body will not be accepted for burial unless it is enclosed within a coffin which complies with the current industry standard.
- 2.21 Interference of any description with a coffin or its fastenings, whether before or after the committal, is not permitted within the Cemetery.
- 2.22 Cardboard, willow and homemade coffins will not be accepted for burial unless authorised in writing in advance by the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 2.23 Only coffins of wood or other perishable material shall be used in an earth Grave.
- 2.24 All coffins for burial must bear a nameplate or other suitable form of identification which must contain the name of the deceased and the dates as recorded on the Certificate for Burial.
- 2.25 The nameplate must be witnessed by the Bereavement Services Manager before the coffin is permitted to be removed from the hearse. Any discrepancies may result in the funeral being postponed until it can be clarified.
- 2.26 It is the responsibility of the funeral director or other persons conducting the funeral to ensure that enough people are available to transfer the coffin to the Graveside and lower it into the Grave.
- 2.27 Only biodegradable coffins will be permitted in the Natural Burial section.
- 2.28 Embalmed bodies will not be accepted for burial in the Natural Burial section.
- 2.29 Metal caskets are only accepted for interment in certain sections of the Cemetery and in chambers. Approval for the use of metal caskets must be obtained in writing in advance from the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 2.30 The person arranging the burial is responsible for the provision of the correct coffin measurements. In the event of a Grave being excavated to the wrong size due to incorrect coffin measurements being provided then the Bereavement Services Manager will need to review the situation. If it is possible to provide burial space within a larger Grave then this will be facilitated and the additional fee for a larger coffin will need to be paid. It may be necessary to relocate the burial to a more suitable part of the Cemetery.
- 2.31 Except as provided for below, all bodies are to be brought into the Cemetery in separate coffins. The only exceptions to this are:
 - a) When a mother with child dies in childbirth and the child also dies, both the mother and child may be buried in the same coffin.
 - b) When twins or multiple births die in childbirth the babies may be placed in the same coffin.
 - c) With the advance authorisation in writing from the Bereavement Services Manager.

Unpaid fees

- 2.32 No Grave or Vault will be re-opened in respect of which any costs, fees or charges remain unpaid.

Grave Maintenance

- 2.33 Any Grave in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be maintained by the Grave Owner. This includes but is not limited to the repair of Memorials,

- keeping the Grave area free of weeds, and ensuring that any plants, flowers, shrubs or trees are pruned, lopped or cut back as and when required.
- 2.34 In the event that the Grave Owner fails to maintain the Grave as set out in Clause 2.33 above the Council may carry out such work as it thinks fit.
- 2.35 Any costs incurred by the Council in exercising its powers under Clause 2.34 above shall be recovered from the Grave Owner.
- 2.36 Deed holders that have created 'garden-like' extensions in the main areas of the Cemetery which were previously classified as lawn cemetery, but have been converted to full kerbset sections, but have been neglecting their space over a significant period of time will be notified that they need to tend to the space or the items will be removed and disposed of by the Council and the area turned to grass.
- 2.37 The Council reserves the right to prune or remove from any Grave plants, shrubs, trees, cut flowers, artificial flowers or foliage of any sort which, in the opinion of the Bereavement Services Manager, have become unsightly, overgrown or detrimental to any adjoining Grave.
- 2.38 The placing of stone chippings is only permitted if enclosed within full kerb sets.
- 2.39 Wilted flowers, wreaths, shrubs, weeds or other items removed from a Grave shall be deposited in the bins provided on site.
- 2.40 Cemetery staff will clear away and dispose of any wilted flowers which have not been removed from a Grave by the Grave Owner or other persons tending the Grave.
- 2.41 No soil is to be deposited in any bin.
- 2.42 Any items considered by the Bereavement Services Manager to present a hazard or danger will be immediately removed without notice and stored for collection for a period of one month.
- 2.43 Christmas wreaths will be removed by the cemetery staff at the end of January.
- 2.44 Permanent Grave mounds are not permitted and will be cleared or levelled by Cemetery staff.
- 2.45 No herbicides and pesticides shall be used within the Cemetery.

Traditional Kerb Set Sections

- 2.46 With the introduction of these revised Rules and Regulations, most of Lambeth Cemetery has been re-designated for traditional kerb set Memorials.
- 2.47 Immediately after a burial has taken place, the Cemetery staff will replace the soil and a temporary soil mound will be formed, topped up and maintained as necessary for a period of twelve months. This is to allow for any soil settlement.
- 2.48 When the mound has been formed, the Cemetery staff and/or funeral directors will sensitively place all the floral tributes on and around the mound. A temporary wooden Grave marker with the name of the deceased and the Grave number can be organised and placed at the top of the Grave.
- 2.49 After twelve months the Grave will be topped up as necessary, prior to installation of the final memorial.
- 2.50 If, during the twelve month period, the Grave Owner has any concerns regarding the level of the soil, please contact the Cemetery office and an instruction will be issued to top up as necessary.

2.51 Established Graves in the areas designated for traditional kerb set memorials that have other small 'garden-like' extensions will be permitted to remain in their current form as long as they are kept in good order. New permit applications for full kerb sets for existing plots will be invited.

Lawn-Raft Section

2.52 This section provides rows of continuous concrete foundations for the installation of a Memorial headstone, ensuring the standardised alignment of all Memorials.

2.53 The Raft System also provides for the installation of Memorials "back to back" which will allow a much larger area between the rows to enable a higher standard of grounds maintenance and also safer Grave-digging operations.

2.54 All plots in areas designated as a Lawn Raft area must comply with one of the following requirements¹:

- a) Grass or wildflower mix covering the entire plot.
- b) A four feet wide by two feet deep pre-cast concrete edging container which must be planted up or filled with chippings.
- c) A four feet wide by six feet deep pre-cast concrete edging container which must be planted up or filled with chippings
- d) A four feet wide by four feet deep pre-cast concrete edging container where option b) is already installed and planted up, in order to avoid disturbing the existing assemblage.

2.55 In order to ensure standardisation the pre-cast containers must be purchased from the Council for the appropriate fee and any alternative products installed will be removed. The Council will also provide a service to plant up plots and containers and provide chippings, for the appropriate fee.

Chippings

2.56 Any type of natural stone chipping is allowed, including but not limited to: slate, limestone, Cotswold stone or marble.

2.57 Coloured glass chippings are not permitted.

2.58 Any glass chippings placed on a Grave will be removed by the Council and replaced with a material of the Council's choosing. The costs of carrying out this work will be recovered from the Grave Owner.

Grave Planting

2.59 The Council encourages the sowing of wildflower seed mixes or the planting of nectar-rich perennials to benefit wildlife.

2.60 The Council also encourages the planting of bedding plants, bulbs, small patio roses or similar. Any such plants must have non-invasive root systems.

¹ Planting over these lawn Graves was only ever allowed within a three feet wide by two feet long area adjacent to the headstone. However, many families have planted over the entire plot, resulting in an area difficult to manage and in need of standardisation. As a result Grave Owners have all been written to with the introduction of these Rules and Regulations.

- 2.61 No plant should exceed two feet in height when fully grown.
- 2.62 The Council reserves the right to prune or remove any plant that does not comply with these requirements. The costs of carrying out such work will be recovered from the Grave Owner.

Cremated Remains Section

- 2.63 The Cremated Remains Section is for the burial of cremated remains only.
- 2.64 Each cremated remains Grave provides for the burial of four standard cremation caskets.
- 2.65 Following interment a small wooden marker will be installed by the Cemetery staff to identify the Grave. This will be removed after a period of twelve months or sooner upon the installation of a permanent Memorial.
- 2.66 Cremated remains Memorials must not exceed two feet in width, two feet in height and two inches in thickness.
- 2.67 Floral tributes may be placed on the Grave, provided they are contained within a vase or other suitable container.
- 2.68 Only fresh cut flowers are permitted.

Baby and Child Sections

- 2.69 Any items placed on a child's Grave must be kept within the boundary of the Grave area.
- 2.70 Glass items are not permitted for health and safety reasons and will be removed by the Cemetery staff. Any such items will be stored and the registered Grave Owner will be invited to collect them.

Natural Burial Section

- 2.71 This area provides an alternative choice to the conventional type of burial. The area will be managed as a wildflower meadow for the benefit of wildlife and is intended to be seen as a living memorial itself.
- 2.72 This section is available to all beliefs and denominations; it encompasses funeral services and ceremonies both religious and secular.
- 2.73 Only one Body shall be interred in a Grave in this section. The pre-purchasing of one adjacent Grave will be permitted at the point of arranging a funeral. Any coffins used must be made of natural biodegradable materials only including but not limited to cardboard, wood or sustainably-sourced wicker.
- 2.74 A Body may be buried in a wool or cotton shroud instead of a coffin.
- 2.75 Funeral wreaths must not spill out over the Grave and must be compostable. The use of wires, plastic or Oasis is not permitted. No memorials will be permitted, aside from a small plaque set into the ground above the Grave.
- 2.76 Embalmed bodies will not be permitted to be buried in the Natural Burial Section.
- 2.77 The use of herbicides in the Natural Burial Section is forbidden.
- 2.78 Coffin nameplates and handles must be biodegradable; metal or plastic is not permitted.
- 2.79 All Graves will be recorded on a Cemetery Plan which will identify each Grave in each burial

section and which can be viewed by request or appointment (please contact the Cemetery office in this respect). In addition, the location of each Grave is marked on the ground via a small metal marker engraved with the plot number and the name of the person interred there.

- 2.80 Following burial a shallow mound of soil will be placed over the plot to allow for settlement. After six months this will be topped up as necessary, levelled and the ground planted with a wildflower seed mix.

Muslim Burial Sections

- 2.81 All the Graves within the Muslim sections face Mecca.
- 2.82 All treatment, washing and dressing of the deceased must be carried out prior to arrival at the Cemetery.
- 2.83 Cover boards may be used but the Council does not supply them.

Glassware or other Fragile Items

- 2.84 The Council reserves the right to remove from any Grave any glassware or fragile item which, in the opinion of the Council, is dangerous, unsightly or a nuisance.

Removal of Remains

- 2.85 No coffin or human remains (including cremated remains) may be removed after burial except with the licence of the Secretary of State or, where the burial is in consecrated ground, under a Faculty issued by the Consistory Court.

3. FUNERAL REGULATIONS

- 3.1 The Cemetery Office must be informed at least two Working Days before the service is due when it is anticipated that there will be a large attendance at a funeral, so that we can make arrangements to marshal parking and to ensure the service is not disrupted or compromised.
- 3.2 In the event that a funeral party is running late the Bereavement Services Manager must be notified by phone as soon as reasonably practicable. Any failures to attend a funeral promptly may result in additional fees or charges becoming payable, e.g. where the late attendance causes the Council to incur overtime costs.

Notice of Interment

- 3.3 Notice of interment must be given to the Bereavement Services Manager not less than two Working Days before the time when the interment is to take place.
- 3.4 Notice of interment must be given on the Council's standard interment form, which must be completed in full.
- 3.5 Applications sent through the post are transmitted at the sender's risk and the Council does not accept any responsibility should they be delayed or lost in transmission. Applications or instructions given by telephone will be received at the sole risk of the person making or giving them. All such applications must be confirmed in writing to the Council using the Interment form.
- 3.6 Interments to be held at short notice to meet religious requirements may be arranged at the discretion of the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 3.7 A Registrar's Certificate of Death, Coroner's Order for Burial or Certificate of Disposal of Ashes must be given to the officiating officer at the Cemetery at the time of interment. In the case of a stillborn child a Doctor's Certificate will be accepted in place of a Registrar's Certificate.
- 3.8 In the event of an interment being postponed or cancelled with less than one Working Day's notice, the late cancellation fee becomes payable.

Documentation

- 3.9 All Notices of Interment and any other necessary forms (green certificate or Coroners Order for Burial) must be received at the Cemetery Office by not later than:
 - a) two Working Days before burial in a Grave
 - b) five Working Days before interment in a Vault, or
 - c) at such other time as may be required by the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 3.10 Unless otherwise authorised by the Bereavement Services Manager, burials shall only take place between 9am and 2pm.
- 3.11 Burials or cremations will take place on Working Days unless a Saturday or Sunday service has been approved by the Bereavement Services Manager. Services taking place on a Saturday or Sunday will be at an enhanced rate and the applicant informed of that at the time.
- 3.12 No funeral will take place on a public holiday except in the case of a mass fatality or other major incident.
- 3.13 The time stated on any documentation for a funeral shall be the time at which the procession is to arrive at the Cemetery or, if booked, the Cemetery chapel.

4. TRIBUTE REGULATIONS

- 4.1 Following burial floral tributes must be carefully placed on or around a Grave by the funeral director or mourners under the direction of Cemetery staff.
- 4.2 Anything attributed to the deceased, including fresh floral arrangements, left within the Cemetery is done so at the risk of the persons placing them there. The Council accepts no liability for the removal or disappearance of any items.
- 4.3 Any articles that stray from Graves will be disposed of.
- 4.4 The Council reserves the right to remove any neglected, unsightly, broken, dilapidated, dangerous or unsafe articles or materials from any Grave, or any article or material considered by the Bereavement Services Manager to be a nuisance or detrimental to the grounds, without notice. This includes: solar lights, lights, candles, candle holders, silk flowers, pinwheels, lighters and matches.
- 4.5 Glass pots, jars, bottles, vases or tins and other such articles used to contain plants or flowers, are not permitted in the Cemetery and should they be found, they will be removed without notice.
- 4.6 Floral tributes placed on a Grave immediately following a burial will be left in situ for 14 days and then removed. If they are placed in a container, the container may also be disposed of. The Council needs to maintain the grounds and items extending over the Graves will be moved onto the Grave or removed and stored for collection for a period of one month. Again, the Council reserves the right to remove any neglected, unsightly, broken, dilapidated, dangerous or unsafe articles or materials from any Grave, including the headstone area, without notice.
- 4.7 Broken glass or any other sharp articles must not be placed in the small litter bins, but can be placed in the large, four-wheeled bulk bins.
- 4.8 No tree or shrub shall be used to support or hang any items. Items found in breach of this provision will be immediately removed once identified and stored for collection for a period of one month.
- 4.9 No form of personalisation will be permitted in or around the Grave, including but not limited to planting shrubs or placing seating around the perimeter.

5. MEMORIAL REGULATIONS

- 5.1 Due to the Council's responsibility for the safety of Memorials, the planting of any large shrub, tree, or conifer is not permitted as, over time, the roots could eventually undermine the foundation of a memorial thereby affecting its stability. If these are planted, the Council reserves the right to remove such plants without notice.
- 5.2 Memorials will be permitted to remain on the Grave for the duration of the Memorial Rights period granted. Memorial Rights are granted for a duration of 25 years.
- 5.3 Memorials shall be of natural quarried stone only.
- 5.4 Memorial installation works shall be carried out in accordance with BS8415 or higher (or any subsequent standard that may be approved at the time of installation) and any Industry Standard or Code of Working Practice that complies and conforms with BS8415 or higher (or any subsequent standard that may be approved at the time of installation).
- 5.5 Only BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons) or NAMM (National Association of Memorial Masons) registered memorial masons will be allowed to carry out work in the cemetery.
- 5.6 To ensure high standards of memorial installation are maintained, all new Memorials are tested approximately two months after the date of installation. If any problems are identified, the memorial mason will be contacted and will be required to carry out any necessary repairs.
- 5.7 No Memorial shall be altered or interfered with once erected in the Cemetery according to the design submitted nor shall any additional inscription be added. An additional Memorial permit application must be made for any subsequent inscription.
- 5.8 A Memorial is the sole responsibility of the Grave Owner. The Council shall not be responsible for any damage or breakage caused by third parties.
- 5.9 Following interment of a Body no memorial can be installed until the ground has settled sufficiently. This will be between six and twelve months from the date of burial. The Bereavement Services Manager will determine when a site is ready for a memorial to be installed.
- 5.10 No works to a Memorial or other structure shall be permitted within the Cemetery or at its entrance without the permission of the Bereavement Services Manager. All materials, Memorials, Vaults and such like items shall be conveyed into the Cemetery along the main roads or footpaths, by or in such a manner as the Bereavement Services Manager may direct.
- 5.11 Temporary wooden crosses will be permitted to remain on a Grave for a period of 12 months from the date of interment. Any such crosses found after such time will be removed by the Council.
- 5.12 Memorials must be kept in good order and repair to the satisfaction of the Council and at the expense of the Grave Owner. Grave Owners are liable for any damage or injury caused by the failure, collapse or toppling of their Memorial.
- 5.13 The Council will undertake regular safety assessments of Memorials to determine necessary health and safety or repair works.
- 5.14 Where repairs are required by Clause 5.13 above the Council shall give written notice to the Grave Owner setting out what needs to be undertaken and the time limit by which any such works are to be commenced and completed.

- 5.15 If any repairs are not commenced and completed within the time specified in any such notice served pursuant to Clause 5.14 above or within any period of extension that may have been agreed in writing by the Council, the Council may cause the same to be repaired, or the Memorial to be removed.
- 5.16 If the name and address of the Grave Owner cannot be ascertained upon reasonable enquiry the notice required by this regulation may be given by posting the same upon the Grave Space in question and shall be deemed to have been served six weeks after being first posted thereon.
- 5.17 The type and size of a Memorial will depend on the sections of the Cemetery and may alter from time to time. All information relating to the types and sizes available can be obtained from the Cemetery office.
- 5.18 Subject to Clause 5.19 below, in the event of a Grave being re-opened for an additional burial the Memorial must be removed before Grave-digging operations can commence. The applicant or Grave Owner is responsible for all related costs.
- 5.19 The Memorial must be removed at least two Working Days before the funeral, or by such other time as the Bereavement Services Manager may direct.
- 5.20 The removal of a Memorial may not be required for the burial of cremated remains or if taking place in the Lawn-Raft section.
- 5.21 From time to time to facilitate a burial on a Grave nearby, a Memorial may be temporarily removed or moved to one side to allow the burial to take place.
- 5.22 The Council may remove, re-fix or make safe any Memorial for any reason in pursuit of practical duties.

Applying for Memorials

- 5.23 All applications for Memorial works must be made on the Council's standard memorial permit form. The application must be signed by the Grave Owner or any other such person who has satisfied the Bereavement Services Manager that they have the right to make such an application.
- 5.24 The form must be signed by the approved memorial mason and submitted to the Bereavement Services Manager for approval. The form includes a requirement to provide an illustration of the Memorial and full dimensions.
- 5.25 No work will be permitted to commence on site unless a memorial permit has been issued.
- 5.26 All work carried out must comply with and conform to the memorial permit. Any failure to do so must be corrected immediately by the memorial mason. If it is not, Cemetery staff will arrange removal of the Memorial and all costs will be charged to the Grave Owner.
- 5.27 Memorial masons must produce the memorial permit to the Cemetery office prior to commencing any installation work.
- 5.28 The Council reserves the right to revoke any memorial permit upon reasonable notice in writing.
- 5.29 The Bereavement Services Manager reserves the right to remove anything installed without written consent or which varies from a written consent and to charge for the cost of removal.

Inscriptions

- 5.30 It is the responsibility of applicants for any form of Memorial inscription to ensure that there is no infringement of any copyright. No responsibility is accepted by the Council in the event of any such infringement.
- 5.31 Any proposed inscription must be submitted to the Bereavement Services Manager by the memorial mason on the memorial permit application form. Where an inscription is proposed in any language other than English, an English translation must also be submitted.
- 5.32 The Bereavement Services Manager reserves the right to refuse any inscription.

Installation of Memorials

- 5.33 Memorials may only be erected on Graves for which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased. On the completion of the installation, a Deed of Grant for the Memorial Rights shall be issued to the person by whom or on whose behalf such right is purchased and such person shall be registered in the books of the Council as the owner of the right. The Deed of Grant must be carefully preserved by the owner of the Memorial as this will be required for any new works, or for renewal of the Memorial Rights. The Memorial Rights shall be granted for a period not exceeding 10 years in the first instance, at the expiration of which the Memorial must pass a safety and stability inspection to allow the period of the grant to be extended for either a further five or ten year period on payment of the appropriate fee. If the Memorial Rights are not extended they will expire and the Council will reserve the right to remove the Memorial at any time.
- 5.34 No Memorial shall be installed, placed, laid upon or over any Grave Space in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been purchased.

Memorials on Lawn-Raft Cemetery Sections

- 5.35 In the Lawn-Raft section of the Cemetery Memorials may only take the form of a headstone or cross which shall not exceed three and a half feet in height above ground level, two and a half feet in width and three inches in thickness. Any base plate must not exceed two and a half feet by one foot in size and three inches in thickness. No other Memorial whatsoever will be allowed in this section of the Cemetery except for pre-cast kerb sets installed by the Council. If it is so wished, a vase not exceeding one foot in diameter and one foot in height may be placed at the head of the Grave in lieu of a headstone or cross.
- 5.36 All headstones and crosses must be fixed at the head of the Grave on a foundation, with an approved ground anchor system that complies with either the NAMM Code of Working Practice, or as required by the BRAMM scheme, and to the satisfaction of the Bereavement Services Manager.

Memorials on Cremation Plots

- 5.37 On Graves set aside for the burial of cremated remains only, Memorials may take the form of a headstone or cross not exceeding two feet wide by one and a half feet high by three inches thick, or a flat stone two feet by one and a half foot feet by three inches thick. No other form of Memorial, other than a small flower vase, will be permitted on these plots.

Memorials on Traditional Kerb Set Sections and Muslim Burial Sections

5.38 One of the following Memorial options must be agreed with Cemetery staff when the funeral is arranged:

- a) A headstone and full kerb sets with a cover slab, stone chippings or soil for planting. Wide flexibility is allowed in terms of style and colour, but the kerb sets must cover the full Grave area (usually six feet by three feet).
- b) A headstone and simple six feet by three feet pre-cast kerb set, installed by Cemetery staff. This can be filled with topsoil for planting, or stone chippings. The Council offers a service to either fill the kerb set with soil and plant lavender, or to fill it with chippings.
- c) A headstone and the plot levelled with topsoil and sown with grass seed or a wildflower mix. Kerb sets can be applied for and installed at a later date if desired. The Council offers a service to sow the grass or wildflower seed.

5.39 Due to the size and weight of a kerb set and the need to ensure the stability of the ground supporting it, no kerb set can be installed before twelve months after the date of the burial.

Memorials on the Natural Burial Section

5.40 A small Memorial not exceeding nine inches by nine inches is permitted to be set into the ground over the centre of the Grave. It may be a wooden plaque or a clay tile only.

5.41 Memorials cannot be installed until at least six months after burial in order to allow time for the ground to settle.

5.42 Memorials can only be installed by Cemetery staff and the date must be arranged in advance with the Bereavement Services Manager.

Power to Regulate Position of Memorials

5.43 The Council reserves the right to require any Memorial to be installed in any position on a Grave as it thinks fit.

Dimensions of Memorials

5.44 Kerb sets must not exceed one foot in height or six and a half feet in length. Memorials shall not exceed five feet in height (including any base) above ground level, or two and a half feet in width, unless authorised in writing by the Bereavement Services Manager.

5.45 All monuments and headstones must be three inches in thickness and all kerbstones must have a cross section size of not less than six inches by three inches except for a child's Grave where the kerbstones must have a cross section of not less than five inches by two inches.

Memorial Materials

5.46 All Memorials must be made of natural granite, marble or quarried stone (but not Bath, Caen, Clipsham or soft sandstone) or of such other material capable of withstanding continuous exposure to the weather as the Council may approve.

5.47 The Council may reject any Memorial made of any materials which, in the opinion of the Bereavement Services Manager, are unsuitable or incongruous with their surroundings.

Vases

5.48 All vases, ornaments, figures or additions to Memorials must be fixed so that no portion projects beyond the inside edge of the kerbing. Vases must not exceed ten inches in height.

Pavings, Chippings and Fencing

5.49 Paving, rockwork or chippings are not allowed unless enclosed by kerbing.

5.50 Wooden or plastic edging, or any other garden-style fencing or edging is not permitted and will be removed without notice by Cemetery staff.

Marking of Memorials

5.51 All Memorials must bear the section and number of the Grave in clear, legible lettering not less than three-quarters of an inch in height in a conspicuous position.

5.52 The Council reserves the right to place its mark or reference on any Memorial to that Grave. Such mark shall not be removed except by or upon order of the Bereavement Services Manager.

5.53 The name only of the mason may be inscribed on any Memorial and the lettering must not exceed three-quarters of an inch in height.

Foundations

5.54 Only foundations conforming to the NAMM code of working practice may be used, and be of such size as are necessary to carry the weight of the Memorial to the satisfaction of the Bereavement Services Manager.

Construction of Paved Memorials

5.55 All chippings and other materials shall be supported by a concrete slab conforming to the following requirements:

- a) a precast reinforced concrete slab at least two inches thick, or
- b) a slab of in situ reinforced concrete at least three inches thick.

Dowels and Cramps

5.56 All metal dowels and cramps shall be of smooth or threaded solid stainless steel, copper or galvanised iron and installed according to the NAMM code of working practice. Kerbs and posts must be set at ground level and must be properly dowelled and grooved for adequate drainage. Headstones must be securely dowelled to landings and properly fixed to any kerbs by means of a substantial cramp.

Fixing of Kerb Sets

5.57 All kerb sets must be installed and fixed according to the NAMM code of working practice.

Removal of Memorials

- 5.58 No monument shall be removed from the Cemetery except by special order from the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 5.59 Any application to remove a Memorial shall be signed by the Grave Owner and shall be submitted to the Bereavement Services Manager prior to such removal.
- 5.60 All necessary work to any monument so removed shall be executed and re-installation or replacement completed without delay and to the complete satisfaction of the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 5.61 The Council reserves to itself and its employees, servants and agents the right to remove any Memorial from an adjoining Grave to facilitate an interment if this should be necessary. In the event of such action being necessary the cost of such works shall be borne by the person arranging the interment.

Internal and External Walls of Buildings

- 5.62 The placing of Memorial on any building wall is strictly prohibited except in the allocated Memorial areas.

6. WORK IN CEMETERY

General

- 6.1 All work shall proceed diligently and be completed with due dispatch from day to day (weather permitting) until completed, and without causing any disturbance or annoyance to any person or damage or interference with other Grave Spaces in the Cemetery or the monuments, Gravestones and tablets installed thereon; or the permit issued for the installation or placing of such monument, Gravestone or tablet will automatically become void.

Hours Permitted for Work

- 6.2 No workmen or materials will be admitted into the Cemetery before 9am and workmen may not remain after 4.30pm (4pm from 30 November to 31 January). No workman or materials will be admitted within the Cemetery other than on Working Days unless authorised in writing by the Bereavement Services Manager.
- 6.3 Work under a Memorial Permit may be executed only during the hours specified in this regulation.

Handcarts and Other Vehicles

- 6.4 No handcart, truck, barrow or other vehicle shall be allowed to remain within the Cemetery longer than reasonably necessary for loading or unloading. This regulation shall not prevent the use of a handcart or barrow as shall be reasonably necessary exclusively for monumental or masonry work or in connection with the planting of shrubs or flowers on Graves, but such handcarts or barrows shall not be allowed to remain in the Cemetery overnight nor during such time as they are not actually in use except with the permission of the Bereavement Services Manager. At no time shall any such handcart or barrow be drawn across any Grave and all precautions shall be taken to prevent any damage to any part of the Cemetery. All handcarts and barrows must have tyres of not less than four inches in width.

Hewing and Dressing of Stone

- 6.5 No hewing or dressing of stone shall take place in the Cemetery without the permission of the Bereavement Services Manager.

7. MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Chapel Services

- 7.1 The time allowed for a service is thirty minutes. If an organist is required this must be arranged by the funeral director or person arranging the funeral.
- 7.2 If additional time is required this must be booked at least two Working Days before the proposed burial. Additional charges will apply as per the current fees and charges schedule.

Ministers

- 7.3 Ministers shall be appointed by the funeral director or person arranging the funeral.

Grave Depth Test

- 7.4 Grave depth tests may be carried out by the Council upon application by the Grave Owner. A fee will be payable.

Filming and Commercial Photography

- 7.5 Applications for filming and commercial photography must be made via Lambeth's Film Office and the appropriate fee paid. The approval of the Bereavement Services Manager must be obtained before any commercial filming or photography takes place in the Cemetery.

Music

- 7.6 No music audible to other people in the Cemetery will be allowed within the boundary of the Cemetery without the authority of the Bereavement Services Manager, unless it forms part of a Memorial or funeral service.

Removal of Wreaths after Remembrance Day

- 7.7 Wreaths placed around the Cenotaph will be removed six weeks after Remembrance Day.

Scattering of Cremated Remains

- 7.8 The scattering of cremated remains is not permitted in any part of the Cemetery other than within a Grave purchased for, or any other area specifically dedicated for, that purpose; and must be with the signature of the Grave Owner if in an existing Grave.

Temporary Hazard Warning

- 7.9 The Council reserves the right to erect (with or without notice) temporary hazard warning signs and barriers around any Grave that needs to be opened for a burial or where a Memorial poses, in the Council's absolute discretion, an imminent risk to public safety.

8. FEES AND CHARGES

- 8.1 Bereavement Services fees are revised annually and payable for:
- a) Exclusive Rights of Burial
 - b) Interment
 - c) Scattering or retention of cremated remains
 - d) Memorial permits
 - e) Memorialisation
 - f) Chapel hire
 - g) Exhumation
 - h) Maintenance and planting on plots
 - i) Grave depth checks
 - j) Administrative work.
- 8.2 A schedule of fees is available on the Council's website and upon request from the Cemetery office.
- 8.3 No extra charge will be made for additional burials in the same Grave at the same time on the same day.
- 8.4 Any cremated remains that are required to be placed in a coffin must be notified to the Cemetery office. A cremation certificate must be provided at least two Working Days in advance in accordance with all other paperwork.
- 8.5 Burial fees for persons who were not residents of Lambeth or Wandsworth at the time of death are higher than fees for residents of these boroughs.
- 8.6 All fees due will be required at the point of booking a funeral or making an application for a Memorial or any other service and must be made using a credit or debit card.

9. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 9.1 The Council has adopted the Charter for the Bereaved, which represents a continual commitment to improving the standards of the Cemetery service to the bereaved. The Charter defines the rights of every individual who experiences bereavement, recognises their needs and rights; and seeks to support the bereaved in the standards of the service we provide.
- 9.2 It is the right under the Charter of the Bereaved for any individual to complain in the event of any dissatisfaction or failure relating to their rights not being offered by the Council. Charter Rights can be obtained from the Cemetery office or from the ICCM website.
- 9.3 The Council also operates its own complaints procedure in respect of which an information leaflet is available upon request from the Cemetery office. Complaints can also be registered via the Council's website at: www.lambeth.gov.uk.