

# CEFN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Trefynant Cemetery - Information Leaflet

### **Introduction**

This leaflet provides some general information for burial owners about their rights and responsibilities.

### **Grave purchase**

When purchasing a grave it is important to remember that what you are actually purchasing is the Exclusive Right of Burial. This means that Cefn Community Council is granting you the right to decide who will be buried in a particular grave, it does not transfer ownership of the land itself. This remains with the Council. A deed of grant will be issued to you and this should be kept safe as it is a legal document. It will form part of your estate when you die so it can be bequeathed like anything else. You must produce your deed each time the grave is opened.

### **General information on Graves**

#### *How many can a grave hold?*

New graves are available for a maximum of 3 interments depending on ground conditions. A grave test can be undertaken to establish this at a cost. In addition, ashes may also be placed in the grave even where the grave is full for future coffin burials.

#### *How long is the grave purchased for?*

Many older graves were purchased in perpetuity. This means that the rights to the grave stay with the family from one generation to next. Under new regulations graves will now only be purchased for a maximum period of 100 years. All new graves are sold on a lease basis for a period of 100 years.

### **After the Burial**

Around 2 to 3 weeks after the funeral (or placing of) all flowers, wreaths and other items will be removed from the grave this may be sooner if the flowers have perished.

The grave may be topped up with soil and once the ground has settled it is then seeded. This process can take many months and is greatly influenced by weather and ground conditions. Please do not think your grave has been forgotten about, the work can take some time to complete.

### **Planting of graves**

No planting of graves is permitted. Graves can accommodate 2 vases incorporated within the headstone.

Occasionally the surface of your grave may be used to site soil when digging an adjoining grave. This means any flowers in vases at that time may have to be lifted as a temporary measure. Every effort will be made to restore the grave to its original condition.

### **Memorials (Head Stone or Ashes Tablet)**

You may place the agreed type of stone memorial on a grave to which you own the Right of Burial providing it meets with our current regulations please refer to CCC/M01, and the mason employed is a member of BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons).

This is a national scheme aimed at raising standards in the fixing of memorials which in turn should lead to safer cemeteries. You can obtain details on their website [www.bramm-uk.org](http://www.bramm-uk.org)

### **Installing a memorial**

After the burial, it will take some time for the soil to settle. We will check the site and add topsoil where necessary, once the ground has settled it is then seeded. It is necessary to allow the soil to settle for usually at least 6 months prior to the erection of a lasting memorial. Ensure form CCC/M01 is completed and returned to the Council Clerk before work commences.

### **Wording on a headstone**

We will allow any words providing they do not cause offence to other visitors. We welcome nicknames as well as 'Mum' and 'Dad'. Form CCC/M01 should be completed and returned to the Council Clerk before work commences.

### **Responsibility for the memorial**

The grave owner or the person who purchased the memorial is responsible for its safety and good repair. We insist on the National Association of Memorial Masons fixing method for all new memorials.

Where an existing memorial is replaced e.g. after removal for burial or an additional inscription, it must be replaced in accordance National Association of Memorial Masons guidance. This should ensure the memorial is safe for a considerable period.

If a headstone becomes loose or dangerous we will try to contact the owner but occasionally we have to make safe any memorial that becomes dangerous and this may include laying it flat.

You should consult your mason with regard to any guarantee and also about insuring your memorial.

### **What can I place on the grave?**

The erection of a memorial is subject to formal application and approval and normally involves a fee. Your mason will deal with this for you. Any memorial erected without permission/fee will be removed. Memorial application forms and cemetery rules and regulations are available from Council Office.

### **Graves**

The following items **are allowed** but placed at the owner's risk:  
Flowers, 2 vases. To be contained within the area of the memorial.  
Memorials are restricted to Head 2'6x2"x4" Base 2'6x1"x4"

### **Ashes Plot**

The following items **are allowed** but placed at the owner's risk:  
Flowers, 2 vases. To be contained within the area of the memorial.  
Memorial slabs are restricted to 12"x12" in size.

**Unauthorised items:** The following items are **not allowed** on either a grave or ashes plot and will be removed or repositioned by council:

- Chippings, fencing, kerbs and edging of any type.
- any item considered being a health and safety hazard to cemetery users. this includes glass vases, sharp objects and tripping hazards. Solar and/or battery operated lights.
- any item which may disturb the peace and quiet of the cemetery for other users such as windmills and chimes.

The reasons for this are that they seriously hamper our grounds maintenance programme and affect our ability to access graves which require opening. It also presents a trip hazard to our workers and other people visiting graves in the same area.

To some, these regulations will sound unreasonable but we want to make sure all visitors can get to the grave they wish to visit. Also our aim during the summer is to keep the grass cut to an acceptable standard, having to work round many obstacles can seriously delay our objectives.

It is against cemetery regulations to mark the grave unless permission has been granted.

Please help us to maintain a clear and safe area by placing all waste flowers in the large bins adjacent to the road. The placing of wreaths etc. on fences is not allowed.

Cefn Community Council  
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