



## Ware Town Council

<b>Report of</b>	Cemetery & Allotments Officer
<b>Report to</b>	Community & Environment Committee
<b>Date</b>	Monday 22 July 2024
<b>Subject</b>	Cemetery and Allotments Report

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### **Cemetery enquiry to be discussed**

#### Interment of Ashes for a Non-Resident

We have received a request from a family, whose mother has recently died, wishing to purchase a new ashes grave and for her ashes to be interred there. The lady and her husband lived in Ware (with their children) between 1967 – 1997. In 1997 they moved out of Ware to live in Little Hadham. The village is outside of the Ware boundary line and has a postcode of SG10. Little Hadham comes under the Little Hadham Parish Council.

We have confirmed the family can purchase a grave space and the lady's ashes can be interred there, but due to them living outside of Ware for the past 27 years the fee will be at the non-resident rate (detailed below). However, the family have requested that Ware Town Council reconsider the fee and for the family to be charged as a Ware resident given the 30 years they resided here and their ties to the town (other family members being buried at the cemetery).

I have attached at the end of the report a copy of the daughter's email, along with our Cemetery Fees and Section 4 of our Burial Regulations.

The fees will be a total of £3,624:-

- Exclusive Rights of Burial for a cremated remains plot = £1,988
- Interment of Ashes = £1,636

To support the Council in making an informed decision whilst considering the family's appeal, please note other burials and interments for non-residents of Ware have been charged the non-resident fee. In March a gentleman, who resides in Great Amwell, paid a total of £10,036 to bury his wife in a new full burial plot at double depth. His residence has an SG12 postcode but is outside of the town boundary and comes under Great Amwell Parish Council.

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#### 4) ENTITLEMENT TO BURIAL OR INTERMENT IN WARE CEMETERY

- a) The Council administers the Cemetery in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries order 1977. All burials or interments must comply with this and/or any successor legislation and, subject to this legislation, the following will be entitled to burial or interment in Ware Cemetery:
- People who are normally resident within the parish boundaries of the town of Ware at the time of death. Evidence to confirm this will be required. In the case of minors, proof that their parents or guardians are normally resident in Ware may be required.
  - People who have spent most of their life as residents of Ware but who have spent the latter stages of their life outside the parish boundaries, e.g., in nursing care.
  - At the discretion of the Town Council, people who are close relatives or partners of residents of Ware. Evidence to confirm the residency entitlement of relatives or partners and the relationship to the deceased will be required. In such a case the fee charged would be the non-resident rate as specified in the current fees and charges schedule.
  - In the case of a grave re-open, where the grave was previously purchased at a resident rate, the resident interment fee will apply.

Page 2 of 7

- The Council can, at its discretion, agree to burials or interments of people who are not eligible under any of the above criteria. In such a case the fee charged would be the non-resident rate as specified in the current fees and charges schedule.

## Ware Cemetery - Fees from 1st January 2024

<b>Purchase of Exclusive Rights of Burial (50 years) - (see explanatory note 1 below)</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non-Resident</b>
Exclusive Rights of Burial for a full burial plot	1,239	4,956
Exclusive Rights of Burial for a cremated remains plot	497	1,988
Exclusive Rights of Burial for the grave of a child (see note 5 below)	100	400
<b>Interments</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non-Resident</b>
Double Depth Interment	1,270	5,080
Single Depth Interment	955	3,820
Interments in wicker, willow, bamboo or similar material in casket / coffin shape (additional to the above single or double depth interment fee)	349	1,396
Interring cremated remains	409	1,636
Interring a second set of cremated remains, at the same time as the first	164	656
Scattering of cremated remains, on an already purchased grave	164	656
Child over twelve (see note 5 below)	164	656
Stillborn or child up to twelve (see note 5 below)	-	-

### Allotment Waitlist Report

There is currently a total of **15** people on the waiting list covering both sites (this was at 32 in February).

<b>Site</b>	<b># on Waitlist</b>	<b># of Vacant Plots</b>
Crosspath Field (King George Road)	1	2
Warehouse Field (Widbury Hill)	14	2 (this was at 17 in February)

There are 4 people on the Warehouse Field waiting list who do not feel in a position to take on a plot at this time. There are also 2 people who already have a plot but would like an additional one.

The person on the Crosspath waiting list is waiting for a plot in a particular plot area of the site.

### Allotment Inspections

The annual allotment inspections have now all been completed, whereby all 204 tenanted plots across both sites have been viewed and findings recorded. As part of the annual inspection a report is sent to each of the tenants detailing our findings as seen on the day. This details the current condition of the plot, any feedback or action required and the next steps. When needed a follow up inspection will take place after 2 months to ensure further work or actions have been completed, and if this is not the case a decision is made whether to initiate the eviction process.

Plot holders are encouraged to share if there is anything that could impact their ability or opportunity to work their plot, as this will always be taken into account as part of the inspection.

## **Annual Allotment Competition**

The judging of the Allotment Competition has started, with the first round of judging having taken place on 11.07.2024. The judging is being undertaken by Mayor. Martin Butcher, Councillor. Graeme Hill and Councillor. Barney Bryant. The Councillors will be joined by a Specialist Judge, Victoria Robertson for the final round on 18.07.2024.

