

26.6.25 Agenda item 11 Cremated Remains Interments Love Lane Cemetery

Background

Love Lane Cemetery does not have a specific area where cremated remains can be interred. Following Resolution 646/24 made of 29.2.24 a working party was appointed to investigate this matter. A separate cremated remains area was originally agreed in March 24. However following the identification of a strip of unused land adjacent to the new path the Council passed the following resolution in February 2025:

874/25 **RESOLVED:- to**

- **approve the revised location for the interment of cremated to be between row 26 and the newly installed path.**
- **authorise the existing working party to consider prices and regulations and report back to a future meeting.**

The working party has since met and has outlined the following practical process for the interment of cremated remains.

Procedure for Interment of Cremated Remains

Preparation: The Town Council will purchase a stock of reinforced concrete memorial foundation stones in advance from a memorial mason. These will measure 533mm x 381mm x 76mm and will be stored in the Groundsman's shed.

Organising the Interment: When an interment is scheduled, with the date and time agreed, one foundation stone will be provided to mark the grave location for the gravedigger.

Excavation: The gravedigger will excavate the marked location in accordance with the size of the casket to a single or double depth as required.

Interment: Cremated remains will be placed into the grave, which will then be backfilled by the gravedigger.

Foundation Stone Placement: The gravedigger will place the provided foundation stone over the filled excavation. The foundation stone will be set a maximum of 2.5cm into the ground

Headstone Installation: A memorial mason will install the headstone and securely fix it to the foundation stone.

Design

Each foundation stone will be set at least 750 mm back from the path, with a minimum gap of 560mm between stones to allow mower access.



Foundation Stone spacing at Love Lane



Type of headstone to be specified

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Appendix A provides a visual layout of the design in grid form.

Recommendations of the Working party are outlined below

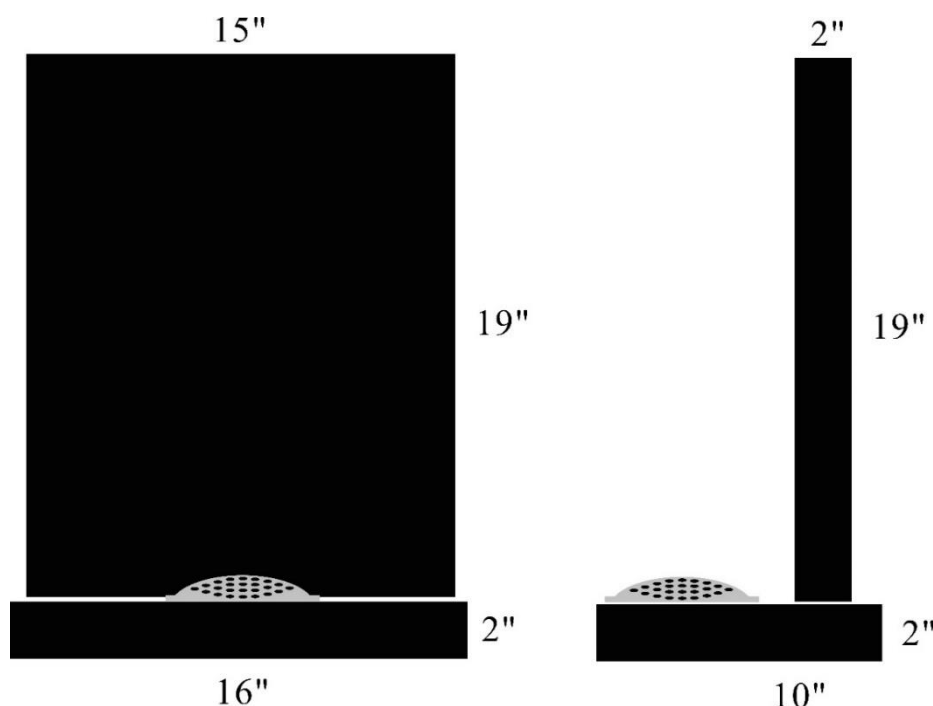
1. Cremated Remains Regulations - for approval

- Cremated remains must be placed directly into caskets, no plastic lining should be used.
- A small headstone to a maximum overall height permitted is 534mm inclusive of includes the plinth which the memorial rests on. The headstone must then be positioned onto the concrete foundation stone to mark location of the interment. The headstone installed must be to Wem Town Council's specifications with no exceptions.
- The grave space maybe of single or double depth.
- Floral tributes, vases etc, must only be situated in the HEADSTONE AREA not on the grass.
- Fencing around the foundation stone is not permitted. **ALL items placed outside of the foundation stone will be removed by Town Council staff without prior notice.**

Headstone Specification

- All memorials in the Cremated Remains Section shall be constructed to the following size specification, which may not be varied.
- A Foundation Stone 534mm wide by 381mm deep by 76mm thickness will be provided by the Town Council and is to be used by the Stone mason. The top surface of the foundation stone must be set a maximum of 2.5cm below ground level.
- The headstone plinth with one integral vase hole shall be 406mm wide by 254mm front to back and 51mm thick. The upright should measure no more than 483mm high from the headstone plinth (see diagram)
- Whilst headstones of this size are not covered by the structural requirements of the British Standard BS8415, they should as a minimum be dowelled to the foundations using stainless steel dowels, (minimum grade 304L) 16mm in diameter and 100mm length. All foundation stones must be secured using ground anchors .

Only the design of headstone below will be allowed with no variations, except for the composition material.



Dimensions will be changed to metric prior to being sent to memorial masons.

2. Recommended Fees

Fees interment of cremated remains	
Plot Purchase fee over 18	£275
Plot Purchase fee under 18	£100
Plot Purchase fee under 1 month at death	£20
Interment fee	£190
Gravedigging fee	£60
Erection of Headstone fee	£150

Up to two interments are permitted per cremated remains plot

Fees for out of parish residents will be doubled as per condition 1 of Cemetery Charges.

Hedge Removal

The working party also considered the Town Council's plans to remove the hedge at Love Lane Cemetery and on reflection and experience from removing a similar conifer hedge at The Butler Sports Centre it is the opinion of trustees that the hedge removal will not benefit the cemetery at all and could create significant future problems with the proposed housing development.