

Bridestowe Parish Council

Cemetery Regulations and Charges

Effective from: 1st May 2026

Introduction

Bridestowe Parish Council acts as the burial authority for Bridestowe Cemetery for the purposes of the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 and sets fees under its powers in section 214 and Schedule 26 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Parish Council has the legal responsibility for administration and maintenance of the cemetery. Accordingly, all fees charged for use of the cemetery are directed towards this purpose. It is the intention of the Parish Council to run the cemetery to a high standard without incurring a financial burden which would become the responsibility of the local electorate.

The following regulations are drawn up by the Parish Council acting as the Burial Authority. There is no presumption that these regulations are totally definitive and it is the belief of the Parish Council that people will use the cemetery respectfully and with due regard for the sensibilities of other parishioners. However, the Parish Council reserves the right to amend these regulations whenever it deems necessary and such amendments will be considered to be retrospective where appropriate. In accordance with current Best Practice, all fees, charges and regulations relating to the parish cemetery are subject to annual review.

All applications for the purchase of graves, burials, the interment of ashes and the installation of headstones and memorial tablets must be made to the Clerk of Bridestowe Parish Council.

Purchase of Exclusive Rights of Burial (EROB)

‘Purchasing’ the Exclusive Rights of Burial gives the named holder the exclusive authority to decide who may be buried in a specific grave for a period of 50 years. This right does not mean ownership of the land. It provides control over interments and the installation of memorials within that grave space, in line with Bridestowe Parish Council’s regulations.

Transfer of Rights

Exclusive Rights of Burial may be transferred to another person during the 50-year term, but only with the Parish Council’s written consent. A transfer can only be completed when the required legal documents are provided, and the Council’s administrative process has been followed.

Renewal of Rights

Before the 50-year term expires, the holder or their legal representative may apply to renew the Exclusive Rights of Burial for a further period. Renewal is not automatic and will be subject to the regulations and fees in place at the time of the application.

Expiry of Rights

If the Exclusive Rights of Burial are not renewed at the end of the 50-year term, the rights will automatically expire, and full control of the grave will revert to the Parish Council. Once rights have reverted, the Council may manage the grave in accordance with its regulations, including decisions about future use, maintenance, and memorial safety.

Regulations

- The parish council wishes to maintain the upkeep and appearance of the cemetery to a high standard with an emphasis on simplicity, dignity and fairness to all.
- Fees apply to all interments, exclusive rights of burial, memorials, and associated services.
- ‘Parishioner’ shall be defined as a person who:
 - Has resided in the parish of Bridestowe for a total of at least 12 months at any time preceding the date of death; and
 - Was living in the parish of Bridestowe at the time of death; or
 - Had lived in the parish but moved into a residential or nursing home within the last 10 years.
- In addition, the definition of parishioner also applies in the case of a still-born child where one of the parents is, at the time of interment, such a parishioner.

- The Exclusive Right of Burial must be granted and purchased before any burial or memorial work may take place.
- Six months after a burial or cremation has taken place, any purchased grave can be marked with a headstone, a tablet/plinth, single vase, or combinations of all three so long as the overall footprint of any memorial/s combined conforms to the following dimensions:
 - Not exceeding 1m in height;
 - Not exceeding 70 cm in width.
 - Not exceeding 60cm in depth.
- Drawings of all memorial designs with dimensions, materials to be used and inscription details, must be submitted to the Clerk of the Council for approval, prior to any memorial or tablet being placed in position.
- All inscriptions, although not charged, must be subjected to approval by the parish council. **The number of the grave is to be inscribed on the back of the headstone or on the edge of a tablet.** Any unmarked grave (i.e. one with no headstone or tablet) is to be numbered by the Council.
- **Any vase must not be separate from headstone or tablet** (i.e. the vase is an integral part of the memorial), unless there is a single vase and no other memorial or tablet present. All the above is to ensure simple maintenance.
- Six months after a burial or cremation has taken place, any flowers are to be placed only at the head of the grave in the integrated vase. Planting of shrubs, flowers etc. in the soil **over** the grave is not permissible and must be grassed. This enables simple, effective and low cost maintenance.
- After 12 months following a burial or cremation, the undertaker shall be responsible to restore to level ground, any depression or raised mound over the grave.
- All activities must comply with the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 and Bridestowe Parish Council's regulations.

Charges with effect from 1st May 2026

The fees below have been fixed and settled under Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972, by Bridestowe Parish Council acting as the Burial Authority, effective from 1st May 2026.

Part 1 - Interment Fees

For any interment of a coffin in an earthen grave at a depth not exceeding 1.5m, or of an urn or casket containing cremated remains.

Parishioner	£200.00
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Non-Parishioner	£500.00
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NOTE: Fees do not include the digging of the grave.

NOTE: No reduction in interment fees will be made in the exceptional circumstances of a requirement occurring for a double burial to take place in the same grave space at the same time. The same charging restriction will apply to a similar application for a double interment of ashes.

Part 2 - Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) Fees

Exclusive Right of Burial grants the holder the right to be buried in a specific grave of 2.4m by 1.2m (double depth) space, or the burial of cremated remains, for a period of 50 years, in accordance with LACO 1977.

Earthen Grave – Parishioner:	£300.00
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Earthen Grave – Non-parishioner	£500.00
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Cremated remains plot – Parishioner:	£150.00
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Cremated remains plot – Non-parishioner:	£500.00
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Notes: EROB must be purchased before a memorial can be installed. Transfer of EROB ownership will incur an administrative fee.

Part 3 – Memorial, Gravestones, Tablets, Monument Fees

For the right to erect or place at the head of a grave in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted:

(a) Headstone not exceeding 1m. in height by 0.7m. in width:
Parishioner: **£130.00**

Non-parishioner: £260.00

(b) OR a tablet not exceeding 0.5m. in width by 0.6m in depth or by 0.25 m. in depth:

Parishioner: £130.00

Non-parishioner: £260.00

(c) OR a vase not exceeding 0.30m in height

Parishioner: £85.00

Non-parishioner: £170.00

All inscriptions (subject to approval by the PC): **No charge.**

6. Other Fees and Charges

- Administration fee for lost EROB certificate: **£10**
- Transfer of EROB ownership: **£50**

7. Statutory Exemptions

In accordance with the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and subsequent regulations, no fees may be charged for the burial or cremation of a child under 18, including stillborn babies.

9. Contact Details

Clerk to the Council

Kayleigh Walker

Tel: 07854 275 955

Email: clerk@bridestowe.org.uk

Signed:

Chair of the Council: _____

Date: _____

Clerk to the Council: _____

Date: _____