

C10. Funeral and Burial Policy

Policy Objective

To outline the Council's commitments for the management and administration of Council owned cemeteries.

Definitions

Burial Right – means the right to inter human remains in a burial space or place a memorial upon a gravesite. There is no entitlement to any 'real estate; or property as such.

Cemetery or Cemeteries – means an area containing one or more burial places. When used as generic term it can apply to lone graves, family plots and larger collections, such as those under Council's control.

Council – refers to Shire of Dundas.

Funeral – means a ceremony or service held after a person's death, including the person's burial or cremation.

Interment or Burial – means the burial of human remains in a grave, plot or niche within the cemetery.

Memorial – means a structure or statue established at a gravesite in remembrance of the deceased.

Plinth – means a flat concrete structure at the top of the grave for which a plaque can be attached.

Receptacle or Niche – means a shallow opening for the placement of cremated remains.

Register – means Council's formal repository of data containing all the details of a burial, memorial site, interment right or burial right.

Tribute – means objects placed at a gravesite to show respect, gratitude or affection for the deceased.

Policy Statement

This policy will apply to all Council owned and managed cemeteries.

As the administrator of the cemeteries within the Shire of Dundas, the Council is the sole determinant of the dignified behaviour within the cemeteries; this includes what constitutes a dignified funeral, monument design and installation and the placement of tributes in addition to the permanent monument.

Council will in accordance with the Land Act 1994 and Land Regulation 2009 meet the following in relation to the administration of Funerals and Cemeteries:

- 1) Manage and maintain a register/record of all burials and interments within all Council controlled cemeteries;
- 2) Manage and maintain a register/record of all burial rights and reservations within all Council controlled cemeteries;
- 3) Set standards for graves, receptacles and inscriptions on headstones, memorials or niches;
- 4) Set the requirements for the placement of flowers, tributes, tokens and other object/item on graves;
- 5) Outline the activities or actions that are considered an offence under both Council's Local Laws and relevant Government Legislation;
- 6) Put in place an administration process for arranging funeral services, burials and ashes interment;
- 7) Act in accordance with all relevant legislation.

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Council will endeavour to meet the following in relation to Cemetery Maintenance:

- 1) Council will maintain the essential elements which gives each cemetery their character. This does not include the repair of monumental work, weeding and general maintenance of individual plots;
- 2) Ensure that watering regimes suit local precipitation, conditions and restrictions;
- 3) Develop a Cemeteries Maintenance schedule to outline Council's commitments.

Policy Reviewed October 2020