

THE REGULATIONS OF THE MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL – BURIAL AUTHORITY

The Burial Authority shall consist of the members from time to time of Much Hadham Parish Council and the Burial Authority shall meet and regulate its business accordingly.

Details of the fees from time to time fixed by the Burial Authority and copies of these Regulations are available on the Parish Council website or on application from the Clerk to Much Hadham Parish Council at [clerk@muchhadhamparishcouncil.co.uk], or by post to Clerk to Much Hadham PC, c/o Much Hadham Village Hall, Oudle Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6DQ.

A sketch showing the dimensions of any headstone or cross or plinth proposed to be erected and a copy of any inscription or thing proposed to be inscribed or engraved thereon shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Burial Authority before any headstone or cross or plinth is erected.

Exclusive Rights of Burial are not granted for any interment which means that the ownership of any plot remains with Much Hadham Parish Council.

Interments can be at single or double depth and this must be specified on the application for interment form. All interments of cremated remains must be in the Garden of Remembrance unless interment is into an existing burial plot. Cremated remains may be interred into an existing grave space to a maximum of 4 but only 2 interments of cremated remains into a Garden of Remembrance plot will be approved.

The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any item which contravenes the following Regulations.

Note – the Clerk acts on behalf of the Burial Authority to ensure compliance with these Regulations. Any applications outside of these Regulations will be referred to the Burial Authority for a decision.

Rules as to Flowers, Grave Spaces, Headstones and Crosses etc for burials

Separate rules apply for the Garden of Remembrance – see 11 below

1. A grave space shall be an area not exceeding 215 cm by 122 cm and shall be only in such position as the Burial Authority determine.
2. The size of a coffin shall not exceed 215 cm by 97 cm
3. No items of any kind shall be put on a grave space except:
 - a. Natural flowers loose or in free-standing vases (which shall not be fixed) or in vases let into bases of headstones;
 - b. Natural plants, natural flowers and natural shrubs planted in any grave space;
 - c. A headstone, cross, plinth or horizontal gravestone that complies with Regulations 7 and 8:
and
 - d. Wreaths for a period of not more than 30 days.

Subject thereto, all grave spaces must be levelled flush with the ground 12 months after interment, and the Burial Authority may level any grave space not so levelled. All such natural plants, flowers and shrubs (whether in vases or planted) must be well tended and must at no time be permitted to exceed 50 cm in height, 20 cm in width and 20 cm in thickness.

4. Artificial wreaths and flowers, including imitation flowers under glass and imitation flowers in vases shall not be allowed on any grave space. If any are so placed, the Burial Authority will remove them.

5. A headstone or cross shall be not more than 95 cm high (calculated from ground level), 61 cm wide and 10 cm thick. The height of any headstone or cross shall be calculated inclusive of any plinth and/or any steps beneath a plinth.
6. Any plinth or foundation stone shall be no more than 15 cm high (calculated from ground level), 30 cm deep (from front to back) and 80 cm wide (from side to side).
7. Horizontal gravestones shall be permitted only as an alternative to a headstone or cross and shall be no more than 60 cm wide by 150 cm long with a thickness or height from ground level of no more than 8 cm on the sides and 20 cm in the middle. Horizontal gravestones shall also comply with Regulation 8, 9 and 10.
8. Headstones should adhere to the following:
 - a. All headstones, crosses and plinths shall be of natural stone (including black honed granite and slate), but (except for a cross in hardwood) shall not be of wood or plastic or white marble or coloured stone.
 - b. No headstone or cross or plinth shall be mirror polished, that is highly polished so as to reflect.
 - c. No ceramic plaques containing an image or a photograph of the deceased or of any other person or thing shall be allowed on a headstone.
 - d. No grave space shall include any kerb, railing, fencing, chippings, statuary, sundial, or birdbath.
 - e. Each headstone shall be rectangular with or without a curved or stepped or angled curved top and shall not be in the form of a book or a heart of the deceased or any other person or thing.
 - f. Any lettering or flowers engraved on a headstone shall be uncoloured or shall be in white, silver, gold or black.
 - g. Armorial shall be permitted but shall not be coloured.
 - h. No images of animals or of anything not expressly permitted, shall be allowed.
 - i. All headstones to be engraved with plot number on reverse or side.
9. If after a period of two years from the interment no headstone or cross has been erected on a grave space, the Burial Authority may place upon such grave space a numbered marker for identification purposes.
10. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any item which contravenes these Regulations.

Garden of Remembrance

11. The Garden of Remembrance is situated within the Perry Green Burial Ground and is available for the disposition of cremated human remains.
12. Cremated remains may be interred in a casket or scattered into individual plots within the Garden of Remembrance section.
13. A memorial tablet will be laid on the ground to mark the position of the interment. One memorial tablet will be accepted per plot.
14. Memorial tablets must be purchased to the following agreed specification:

Size	30.5 cm ²
Material	Medium grey granite (unpolished)
Lettering	Incised and silver
Text (suggested)	NAME DATES No embellishments permitted
Script	Roman

15. The following is not allowed in the Garden of Remembrance, either near or on a memorial tablet:

- no glass or plastic vases;
- no plastic urns;
- no containers or baskets;
- no pot plants or artificial flowers;
- no bottles;
- no wreaths or floral tributes; and
- no planting of trees, shrubs or plants.

16. All laws and regulations relating to the disposal of cremated human remains must be adhered to. Next of Kin and Executors should be aware that once ashes have been interred or scattered in a designated plot, this is their final resting place. It is not possible to retrieve them without a license from the Ministry of Justice.

17. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any item which contravenes these Regulations.

Adoption

18. These Regulations supersede any previous Regulations. No headstone or cross or plinth or gravestone erected prior to the date of these Regulations and which does not comply with these Regulations shall be treated as having created a precedent.

19. These Regulations were adopted on 7 April 2026 and shall be amended only by a majority by heads of at least two thirds of the members of the Burial Authority.

Cllr Mrs PA Taylor
Chair of Much Hadham Parish Council