

Regulations for Memorial Masons

All Masons who wish to work in Mid Devon's cemeteries must be members of the Approved Contractor scheme. The criteria for membership are:

- Public Liability Insurance of £5m
- Adherence to the National Association of Monumental Mason's Code of Working Practice (March 2000 edition or later). A NAMM approved anchor system should be used on all new monuments and the same should be installed on all refitted monuments. The choice of the system is left to the Mason, but should be the most appropriate for the soil conditions.
- A statement to the effect that the Mason has not been barred from working in any other cemetery in the last two years and an assurance that should this occur in the future the Mason will inform the Council immediately.
- That all work shall conform to statutory requirements and Cemetery regulations.

It is no longer necessary for a grave owner to separately purchase Rights to Erect a Monument. These will be issued when Exclusive Rights of Burial are obtained.

No monuments may be erected upon unpurchased graves, should one be so erected the Council may demand its immediate removal at the expense of the Mason and/or Purchaser.

It is the Mason's responsibility to satisfy him or herself that the purchaser of a monument has a right to erect it. All applications should bear the signature of the owner of the Rights.

A complete plan of the proposed monument, including complete details of foundation works, must be submitted to the Bereavement Services Office at Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton EX16 6PP at least four weeks before work is scheduled to commence. Once this has been approved, a permit to construct will be issued.

Once in possession of any permit, Masons must give at least 48 hours notice of intent to work in the cemetery, giving full details of graves and monuments upon which work will be carried out. This information may be faxed to the Office on 01884 234256 or by email to bereavementservices@middevon.gov.uk

No variations from the terms of a permit allowed. All monuments must bear the name of the Mason and the grave reference number in letters no higher than 4cm on the rear of the base. An asterisk should indicate where a NAMM approved anchor system has been installed.

The funeral organiser will order removal of monuments before an interment. All parts of the monument must be removed from the cemetery unless written permission has previously been obtained from the Council. Any masonry found unattended and away from a grave in any part of the cemetery will be deemed to have been abandoned and may be disposed of.

Masons shall be notified if an interment is scheduled at a time when they are to be working in a cemetery. All works adjacent to the interment must cease and personnel,

plant and vehicles must be withdrawn from the area at least 15 minutes before the time of the interment. Work may recommence when all mourners have left the cemetery. The Council places no general restrictions upon the type and construction of monuments, apart from considerations of taste and Health and Safety. Each monument will be considered individually and if a plan is rejected a full written explanation will be given.

All monuments should be constructed to be safe for a period not less than 30 years. During this time purchasers right to a guarantee in respect to installation fittings should be made known to them. A guarantee of six years in respect of workmanship should similarly be communicated. The Council supports the practice of masons providing monumental insurance to their customers.