

BYE-LAWS

1. Throughout these bye-laws "The Council" means the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of West Hartlepool acting by the Council.

"The Cemetery" means the cemetery provided by the Council and known as the North Cemetery and the cemetery known as Stranton Cemetery.

"Grave" means a burial place formed in the ground by excavation and without any internal wall of brickwork or stonework or any other artificial lining.

"Vault" includes underground burial places of every description, except graves to which the word "grave" interpreted as aforesaid applies.
2. The Cemetery shall be open to the public on any day other than a Sunday from eight o'clock in the forenoon until half past eight in the afternoon or sunset, whichever is the earlier, and on Sunday from half past ten in the forenoon until half past eight in the afternoon, or sunset, whichever is the earlier, and a person other than an officer of the Council or a person employed by them in the cemetery shall not on any day enter the same or remain therein before the time appointed for the opening thereof, or after the time for the closing thereof.
3. A person other than an officer of the Council or a person employed by them in the cemetery shall not, except in connection with an interment therein or for business purposes in connection therewith, ride, drive or bring, or cause or suffer to be ridden, driven or brought into the cemetery any beast of draught or any other animal.
4. A person other than an officer of the Council or a person employed by them in the cemetery shall not at any time, except in connection with an interment therein or for business purposes in connection therewith, drive or wheel into the cemetery any barrow, truck, machine, cycle, motorcycle, or vehicle other than a wheeled chair drawn or propelled by hand, or a perambulator or a chaise drawn or propelled by hand and used solely for the conveyance of invalids or children.
5. A person shall not in connection with an interment in the cemetery drive or wheel any barrow, truck, machine, cycle, motor-cycle or vehicle therein except on the main roads leading from the entrance gates in Hart Road and Jesmond Road respectively to the chapel in the North Cemetery, and from the entrance gates in Tanfield Road and Brierton Lane respectively to the chapel in Stranton Cemetery and on the other roads indicated on the plan of the cemetery deposited at the Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.
6. The driver of a vehicle used in connection with an interment in the Cemetery, shall not in the cemetery, if the vehicle is drawn by an animal or animals, leave such animal or animals without a person in charge of the same, or, if the vehicle is a motor vehicle, leave the vehicle unattended while the engine is running.
7. A person shall not wilfully, carelessly or negligently throw or discharge in the cemetery any stone, snowball or other missile, or make any bonfire therein.
8. A person shall not climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the cemetery, or any tree, barrier, railing or post in the cemetery.
9. A person shall not in any part of the cemetery wilfully displace, disturb, injure or destroy any bird's nest, or wilfully take, injure or destroy any bird's egg.

10. A person shall not in any part of the cemetery take, injure or destroy any bird, or spread or use any net, or set or use any snare or other engine, instrument or means for the taking, injury or destruction of any bird.
11. Every person who in the cemetery causes a vault to be built for use as a burial place shall cause it to be enclosed with walls constructed of;
 - (i) good whole bricks or stone properly bonded and solidly put together, with good mortar compounded of good lime and clean sharp sand or other suitable material, or with good cement, or with good cement mixed with clean sharp sand or
 - (ii) other good hard and suitable material properly and solidly put together.
 - (iii)
12. Any person shall not in the cemetery cause or suffer a body to be buried in a grave in such a manner that any part of the coffin is at a depth less than three feet below the level of the ground adjoining the grave.
13. A person shall not in the cemetery cause a body to be buried in a grave unless the coffin is effectually separated from any other coffin already in the grave by means of a layer of earth not less than six inches in thickness.
14. Where, in the cemetery, any grave is reopened for the purpose of making another interment therein, a person shall not disturb any human remains interred therein or remove therefrom any soil which is offensive.
15. Every person who in the cemetery buries a body in a vault shall, within a period of twenty four hours after the deposit in the vault of the coffin containing the body, cause the coffin to be wholly and permanently embedded in and covered with a layer or layers of good cement concrete, not less in any part than six inches in thickness, or to be wholly and permanently enclosed in a separate cell or receptacle which shall be constructed of slate or stone flagging, not less than two inches in thickness properly joined in cement, or of good brickwork in cement, and in such a manner as to prevent, as far as may be practicable, the escape of any noxious gas from the interior of the cell or receptacle.
16. Every person who in the cemetery buries a body in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted by the Council shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the lapse of such a period as may reasonably suffice for the natural subsidence of the earth with which the grave has been filled up, cause the surface of the grave to be properly covered with fresh turf, or with any grave stone or monument which, in pursuance of any grant by the Council, may lawfully be erected or placed on the grave, or shall cause the surface of the grave to be planted with shrubs or with other suitable vegetation.
17. A person shall not in the cemetery by any violent or indecent behaviour, prevent, interrupt or delay the decent and solemn burial of any body.
18. Every person who offends against any of the foregoing bye-laws shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty of five pounds, and in the case of a continuous offence, to a further penalty of forty shillings for each day after written notice of the offence from the Council.

Provided, nevertheless, that the justices or court before whom any complaint may be made or any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence may, if they think fit, adjudge the payment as a penalty of any sum less than the full amount of the penalty imposed by this bye-law.

19. (Repealed by bye-law made 10th September 1948)

Repeal of bye-laws

20. From and after the date of the confirmation of these bye-laws, the bye-laws specified in the schedule hereto shall be repealed.

The schedule above referred to

Bye-laws relating to the management of the NEW CEMETERY made by the Council on the third day of November 1892 and confirmed by the Local Government Board on the twenty-first day of January 1893.

Bye-laws relating to the management of the STRANTON CEMETERY made by the Council on the third day of December 1912, and confirmed by the Local Government Board on the fifteenth day of February 1913.

Bye-laws relating to the charges for the use of the NEW AND STRANTON CEMETERIES made by the Council on the third day of February 1920 and confirmed by the Minister of Health on the thirtieth day of March 1920.

Passed under the Common Seal of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of West Hartlepool, this 26th day of June 1934.

(signed) F B MAGEE
Mayor,

(signed) HAROLD W. STANTON
Town Clerk,

The foregoing bye-laws are hereby confirmed by the Minister of Health, this twentieth day of August 1934, and shall come into operation on the first day of October 1934.

(signed) E. H. RHODES
Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Health