



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

# Bereavement Services Guidance Notes on Graves and Memorials

# PURCHASED GRAVES

When purchasing a grave, it's essential to understand that you are not buying land, and ownership of the land remains with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. What you acquire are the Exclusive Rights of Burial for a grave, valid for a period not exceeding 99 years, as granted in a legal document known as the Deed of Grant.

The Deed grants you the following rights:

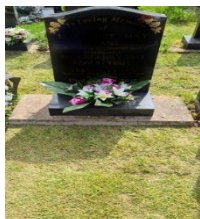
- Burial in the grave or plot (subject to available space, including cremated remains)
- Authorisation for additional burials in the grave (if space allows) or for interment of cremated remains
- Permission to apply for a permit to place a memorial on a grave or for an additional inscription to be added.

Burial Law (Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977) states that no burial or memorial placement is permitted without the written permission of the Deed owner during the Exclusive Rights period, except for the owner's burial. The Deed must be legally transferred if someone else wishes to arrange a further burial in the grave. Keep your Deed safe as it's part of your estate.

It is important that should you change address you notify the bereavement services section so that we can update our records with the most current contact information.

## TYPES OF GRAVES

Traditional Grave	Cremation Plot
<p>This grave permits the application for a memorial headstone with kerbs and surrounds (fee required). Planting trees or shrubs on the grave is not allowed. The grave owner is responsible for maintaining the memorial, while cemetery staff will care for the grassed area</p> <p><b>Please note all memorials must be fitted by an approved Mason who is registered with BRAMM.</b></p>	<p>These graves allow you to apply for a permit (fee required) to place a memorial headstone on a grave space. <b>NO</b> kerbs, fences or surrounds are permitted on the grave and will be removed without further notice. No trees or shrubs may be planted on the grave. Maintenance of the memorial is the grave owner's responsibility, while cemetery staff will tend to the lawn area.</p> <p>Cremation plots are smaller and designated for cremated remains only</p> <p><b>Please note all memorials must be fitted by an approved Mason who is registered with BRAMM.</b></p>



**We do not allow any unauthorised fences, chippings, ornaments etc. on our graves and these items will be removed without notice.**

*Please be aware that all new graves may undergo soil consolidation, causing them to sink. This is a natural process, and our cemetery staff will maintain grave levels by adding soil as needed. Additionally, during the excavation of graves, it is necessary to temporarily place the soil on the adjacent grave, which may, at times, be your loved one's resting place. However, after the burial service is completed, we promptly use the same soil to refill the grave, minimising any potential inconvenience. The grave that briefly held the soil is then restored to its original condition. We understand that this process may understandably cause distress to families, but it is an unavoidable requirement for the smooth and respectful operations of our cemetery.*

Due to limited burial space, some of our cemeteries cannot accommodate new graves. In such cases, the only option is a 're-used' grave.

A 're-used' grave refers to one with only one burial over 70 years ago, lacking a memorial, and still owned by the Council. The original burial is undisturbed during excavation, but the remaining depth above that burial can accommodate a maximum of two coffins, provided there is enough space.

In Pant Cemetery, where depth is limited, an option is available for one earthen burial followed by a brick chamber for coffin burials. For current fees, please visit our website [www.merthyr.gov.uk](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk).

## MEMORIALS

### MEMORIAL PERMITS

If you purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial on a grave within our cemeteries, you will have the right to apply to erect a memorial on the grave. Memorials are not permitted on graves where rights are not purchased and will be removed without further notice.

We only allow masons who work to industry standards and are registered with British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) to work in our cemeteries. Memorials must also comply with our regulations. For guidance visit our website [www.merthyr.gov.uk](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk)

Please note that no work can take place on a memorial without

- The authorisation of the person who holds the Right of Burial on the grave.
- Your memorial mason submitting an application form and fee to the council.
- A permit being issued by the council.

Memorials should not be installed before the minimum installation date to allow sufficient time for ground settlement, ensuring maximum stability. All memorials are the responsibility of the owner with Exclusive Rights of Burial, who is responsible for their maintenance. We recommend purchasing insurance to cover your memorial.

## **MEMORIAL SAFETY**

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is legally obliged, under the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, to manage cemetery risks. To fulfil this duty, all memorials undergo safety inspections every 5 years to ensure their stability. If an inspection deems a memorial hazardous, we must remove it. Please note we do not perform repairs, so this may involve laying a headstone flat.

Owners of unsafe memorials will receive written notifications at their last known address. It is the owner's responsibility to arrange and cover the costs of necessary repairs by an authorised memorial mason. Please inform Bereavement Services of any change in your address.

## **UNAUTHORISED MEMORIALS**

In accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council reserve the right to remove from our cemeteries any unauthorised memorial. The council may also remove any unauthorised items such as fences, chippings etc. at any time without giving further notice.

## **CONTACT US**

If you require any further advice or information, please contact:

Bereavement Services, Unit 20, Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park, CF48 4DR

Telephone: 01685 725000

Email: [Bereavement.Services@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:Bereavement.Services@merthyr.gov.uk)