



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Interment Fees for Additional Ashes in a Casket or Burial Plot

Report to: Full Council 25-05

Report by: Assistant Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under:

- Open Spaces Act 1906, subsections 9 and 10 - Power to acquire and maintain burial grounds
- Links to Environmental Permitting Regulations

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets and wildlife
- Improve the well-being of residents
- To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and consider as the basis of all decision and policy making

Public Sector Equality Duty:

This proposal has been considered under the Public Sector Equality Duty and does not appear to adversely affect those protected under the Equality Act 2010.

Duty to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity:

The proposal does not directly impact biodiversity. However, it contributes to protecting the burial grounds from overcrowding and disorganised interments, maintaining their aesthetic and environmental value.

Consideration of Carbon Reduction:

No direct carbon impact is anticipated as a result of this proposal. However, allowing the consolidation of interments into fewer plots may result in more efficient land use.

Risk Management:

Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal¹

It is impossible to list every risk faced by a local council. Risk, in the general sense, means the likelihood

¹Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register? Any contingency planning needed?

of an event happening, and the severity of the negative consequences. The insurance industry regards risk as representing loss or damage. Risk always involves uncertainty. When protecting a local council effectively, it is important to consider if risk is present in the following areas (SLCC AN241)[Tick]

Decision making	Events	Written/verbal
Finances	✓Legal – pollution	communication
✓Property – council land	Inspections	Insurance
✓Staff – staff health		

- Decision Making: Clear and transparent pricing for additional ashes will help mitigate confusion or dissatisfaction among residents.
- Finances: This proposed pricing is intended to ensure the council maintains its financial sustainability without imposing undue financial burdens on residents.
- Property (Council Land): The proposal ensures burial plots are used efficiently and fairly, without risking overcrowding or misuse of space.
- Legal (Pollution, Regulations): This proposal complies with existing cemetery regulations and maintains high standards of environmental protection.

Does the report consider any new activity? If ‘Yes’, has a risk assessment, including risk management proposals, been included for consideration and adoption by the council?
(Financial Regulation 17b) N/A.

Proposal: Interment Fees for Additional Ashes in a Casket or Burial Plot

Report

This report aims to set a fair and reasonable pricing structure for the interment of multiple sets of ashes, either within a casket or in an existing burial plot, as per requests from residents and their families. The goal is to establish a clear pricing framework that supports the council's operational needs while offering families flexibility in the management of cremated remains.

Context

As cremation continues to be a popular choice for many, we are seeing an increase in requests to inter more than one set of ashes in a single plot or casket. The council has had several inquiries regarding pricing for interring additional sets of ashes within an existing burial plot or casket, whether from the same family or across generations.

Currently, the council charges for a single set of cremated remains per plot. However, there is no clear guidance or pricing policy for multiple sets of ashes being interred in one plot or casket, creating uncertainty for residents and the council. This proposal seeks to address this by establishing a fee structure that reflects the administrative and logistical costs of such interments.

Proposed Pricing Structure:

- **Single Set of Ashes:**
Agreed fee: £154.00
This reflects the standard interment fee for a single set of ashes in an existing plot or casket.
- **Two Sets of Ashes in One Casket (Same Plot):**
Proposed fee: £230.00
This fee accounts for the interment of two sets of ashes within the same casket or plot, ensuring it covers the necessary administrative costs while offering a slight discount compared to paying for two separate interments.
- **Partial Set of Ashes (e.g., token portion from a second individual) in the Same Plot or Casket:**
Proposed additional charge: £30
This nominal fee ensures that the administrative and record-keeping requirements are met, while still providing flexibility for families with multiple sets of ashes.
- **Adding a set of ashes to an already occupied burial plot.** This fee accounts for an interment of ashes added to an existing burial plot. Proposed addition charge of £75 onto of the interment fee to cover the admin costs.

Rationale for the Proposed Pricing:

- **Administrative Costs:** Interring multiple sets of ashes requires additional record-keeping, documentation, and communication with families. This pricing structure ensures that the costs of these activities are adequately covered.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Charging for multiple sets of ashes reflects the potential extra time required for coordination and ensures the fair use of burial space without overburdening council resources.
- **Flexibility for Families:** This pricing structure allows families to inter ashes of different generations or individuals within the same plot, providing an efficient use of space and offering families more choices in how they memorialise their loved ones.

The implementation of these fees will provide clarity and fairness for residents, help manage burial space more effectively and ensure that the council can cover the operational costs involved in managing multiple interments.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the council adopts the proposed pricing structure for interment of additional ashes in caskets or burial plots and updates the fees and charges accordingly:

£230.00	Two sets of ashes in one casket
£30.00	A token set of ashes added to a plot.
£230.00	Interment of ashes into an occupied burial plot.

