

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS



Agenda Item: Windrush Cemetery – New Ashes Section

Meeting Date: Monday 10 November 2025

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

At the Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments meeting on the 8th of September, Officers reported to the members on the proposals for the new ashes section at Windrush Cemetery. Members provisionally approved that the funds be included during budget-setting discussions for the 2025-26 financial year. Members also requested that a fully costed proposal be prepared and that the Friends of the cemeteries group be consulted on the proposal.

Current Situation

The current charges for an ashes plot at Windrush Cemetery are listed below. An ashes plot at Windrush can inter 2 ashes caskets.

Burial charge for the current Ashes path

Exclusive right of Burial (30yrs):	£269.00
Interment of Ashes:	£186.50
Memorial permit:	£172.00
Additional inscription:	£80.00
Total cost for two interments:	£894.00
Cost per interment	£447.00

Burial Charge for the proposed vault system, in line with current burial charges

The costs displayed below are the costs that the vault system and Trident vault system equate to per interment. These costs are calculated at the 2025-26 burial charges.

Vault system

Exclusive right of Burial (30yrs):	£269.00
Ashes casket:	£75.00
Interment of Ashes:	£160.50
Memorial Permit:	£200.00
Additional inscription:	£80.00
Total Cost for four interments:	£1651.00
Cost per interment	£411.75

Trident vault system

Exclusive right of Burial (30yrs):	£269.00
Ashes casket	£75.00
Interment of Ashes:	£134.50
Memorial inscription:	£80.00
Total Cost for four interments:	£1427.00
Cost per interment	£356.75

New Proposed vault burial charges

The vault systems come with an initial charge of installation that would need to be covered across the total burial charge. Due to the nature in which ashes plots are used, it is unlikely that after the expiry

of the EROB these plots could be reutilised. For this reason, officers would recommend that the EROB charge encompass the additional fees.

The total fee to families can be reduced through the savings in labour hours, plus the capacity for the vaults to inter 4 sets of ashes rather than the current 2. The council would also need to include a cost to families for the purchase of a bespoke urn which slides into the vault system; these are considerably cheaper than a traditional ashes urn. There is still the option for a family to use any urn of their choosing, but the bespoke urn would represent a saving and ensure the vault could accommodate 4 sets.

Vault system (198.00 per vault), 32% increase on ashes path plot construction	Trident vault system (585.00 per vault), 195% increase from the Vault system
Exclusive right of Burial (30yrs): £355.08	Exclusive right of Burial (30yrs): £801.62
Ashes casket: £94.00	Ashes casket £94.00
Interment of Ashes: £160.50	Interment of Ashes: £134.50
Memorial Permit: £200.00	
Additional inscription: £80.00	Memorial inscription: £80.00
Total Cost for four interments: £1813.08	Total Cost for four interments: £2035.62
Cost per interment £453.27	Cost per interment £508.90

Members also raised that 20 vaults wouldn't be sufficient for the council's future burial demands. To address this concern, officers are recommended to preinstall 60 vaults, 40 of them being a burial vault and 20 being a Trident vault system. Also, on the committee members' request, officers have consulted with the Friends of the Cemetery Group, and they are in full support of the proposal.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – There are many different burial beliefs, and some have the requirement that remains should not come into contact with the soil. Ashes interments also offer an important alternative burial method for residents.
- b) Biodiversity – there are weed issues with the current ashes path design that require the use of weedkiller to control the growth, which can be harmful to wildlife and the environment.
- c) Crime & Disorder – items have been reported stolen on owners' plots.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Financial implications

- The cost of 40 glass-reinforced concrete vaults is £7,920
- The cost of 20 Trident vault systems is £15,660
- The prices quoted above would likely increase in the next financial year, so a total fund of £25,000 would need to be allocated.
- An additional budget of £1,500 would also be required to purchase 20 ashes urns, which would be purchased from the council to inter ashes into the vault.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. Consider the financial proposal detailed in the report for the new ashes section at Windrush Cemetery, and whether the new proposed charges are reasonable.
2. Funds are allocated at £25,000 for the initial outlay cost of the new ash's vault section, along with £1,500.00 for the initial purchase of 20 ashes urns.
3. Delegate officers to set suitable memorial guidelines in line with current cemetery guidelines for the new ashes vault section.