

Proposal for the Scattering of Ashes in Willand Cemetery

The Cemetery working group met at the Cemetery on the 4th April 2024 and, as part of the meeting, discussed the potential to allocate an area/areas for the scattering of ashes. Councillor Grantham prepared a plan, which accompanies this paper.

The proposals are:

- An area to the rear of the cemetery extension to be divided into two parts, separated by a grass path with grasslok matting. One part to be consecrated, one part un-consecrated to allow for different beliefs. Rose beds to be planted in the centre of each using sleepers, with bark around the roses for easier maintenance. Cllr Grantham has offered to maintain the roses and beds to start with, however a longer-term solution needs to be considered for their maintenance should the proposals be agreed.
- Walkways around the beds off the main path to be grass.
- Cllr Grantham has also suggested that a wall or structure could be partially erected around each bed to allow for memorial plaques to be affixed, where wanted.
- The suggested size of the rose beds is 10x8 metres each and height of walls 45cms.
- A bench to be situation in the middle at the end of the path and an area of trees to be planted in the right-hand corner to screen the spoil.
- The Clerk has researched fees for the scattering of ashes in local cemeteries and has found that Exeter and East Devon both allow this in some of their cemeteries. Exeter's fees are £166 and East Devon's are £102 with no charge for under 16's. It is suggested that a charge of £125 would be reasonable.
- In addition, the Parish Council could make a charge of £25 to fix any memorial plaque to the proposed wall, the plaque itself would have to be provided by the family and contain only basic information and conform to an agreed size.
- If agreed in principle, Cllr Grantham has agreed to obtain costs, which will be brought back to Council for approval.

Debbie Bird, Clerk to Willand parish Council

April 2024