

Memorial Safety Inspections

Goxhill Parish Council is arranging Memorial Safety Inspections to take place at Goxhill Parish Cemetery during 2019 and the following information, in the form of '**Frequently Asked Questions**' has been provided to help you understand why, when and how this is to take place. This can be a sensitive issue and it is hoped that early consultation will enable the inspection to be carried out in the most efficient, effective and sympathetic way.

Why are memorials being inspected?

Safety inspections will be taking place at Goxhill Parish Cemetery, as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to providing a safe environment for both public and staff.

When will the inspections be taking place?

It is proposed that the inspections will take place in during 2019.

Who will be carrying out the inspection?

The inspections will be carried out by a fully independent specialist company.

What has/will the Council be doing to inform people of the inspection?

The Council has or will:

- Place an initial article in the local magazine, circulated to all local residents.
- Post advisory information on site at Goxhill Parish Cemetery.
- Post advisory information on other local notice boards within Goxhill.

How will a memorial be tested?

Memorials will undergo a visual inspection, and hand test. They may be tested by the use of calibrated testing equipment as required.

What will happen if a memorial is found to be unsafe?

If a memorial is found to be unsafe the Council has a health and safety obligation to temporarily make it safe in line with the '**Memorial Safety Policy**'. The Council will aim to carry out the inspections and any subsequent temporary stabilisation work, in the most sensitive way and does not wish to routinely lay down memorials. The Council will only lay down a memorial if it is found to be unsafe and it is inappropriate or unfeasible to temporarily stabilise it.

What should I do if my memorial is found to be unsafe?

The Council will attempt write to contact the owner of the memorial as identified from current cemetery records and they will be asked to arrange for the appropriate repairs to be made.

Who do I contact if I need my memorial repaired?

A notice would be attached to any unsafe memorial advising that the expertise of a memorial mason must be sought and that the memorial must be erected in accordance with the NAMM Code of Working Practice.

Will more inspections take place in the future?

Yes, this is part of an ongoing programme and further inspections will be taking place in the future. Following recommendation from the Local Government Ombudsman and the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) inspections are now to be carried out at no longer than five year intervals. Following this initial inspection of all memorials, inspections will then be carried out on a phased/ prioritised programme in future years.

Useful Contacts

Parish Council -

National Association of Memorial Masons - 01788 542264