



CHISELDON PARISH COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERALS POLICY

The Parish Council recognises that under the Public Health Act 1984 Section 46 it has a duty to provide a burial or cremation service to those who have died in their area where there is no other possible arrangements to be made.

[Public Health \(Control of Disease\) Act 1984 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/261/section/46)

46 Burial and cremation.

- (1) It shall be the duty of a local authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority.
- [F1]** (2) Any council which is the local authority for the purposes of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 may cause to be buried or cremated the body of any deceased person who immediately before his death was being provided with accommodation under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.
- (2A) A local authority within the meaning of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 may cause to be buried or cremated the body of any deceased person who immediately before his death was being provided with accommodation under Part 4 of that Act.]
- (3) An authority shall not cause a body to be cremated under subsection (1) or (2) above where they have reason to believe that cremation would be contrary to the wishes of the deceased.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (2) above do not affect any enactment regulating or authorising the burial, cremation or anatomical examination of the body of a deceased person.
- (5) An authority may recover from the estate of the deceased person **F2**... expenses incurred under subsection (1) or subsection (2) above, **F3**...
- (6) Without prejudice to any other method of recovery, a sum due to an authority under subsection (5) above is recoverable summarily as a civil debt by proceedings brought within three years after the sum becomes due.
- (7) The Secretary of State may cause such inquiries to be held as he may deem necessary or desirable for the purposes of this section.
- (8) The Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument direct that this section, in its application to the Isles of Scilly, shall have effect subject to exceptions, adaptations and modifications.

The Parish Council recognises that everyone deserves a funeral that is dignified and respectful, and they will endeavour to work with family members or last known wishes and/or religious views of the deceased.

Anyone wishing to ask about a Public Health Funeral should contact the Clerk in the first instance who will be able to advise and help. clerk@chiseldon-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council will follow Government guidance listed below on the good practice for Public Health Funerals.

[Public health funerals: good practice guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-funerals-good-practice-guidance)



Chiseldon Parish council's responsibilities:

The Clerk will:

1. Ensure that family/friends/the deceased is treated with dignity and respect.
2. Determine if it is known whether the deceased wanted a burial. The council will respect the deceased wishes for a burial if required.
3. Determine if any personal wishes or religious views need to be noted and adhered to.
4. If there is any family, ask if the deceased left a will so that further guidance can be obtained on any wishes.
5. The Clerk will contact the Institute of Cemeteries and Crematorium Management if required for guidance on these matters.

A funeral director will be engaged by the Parish Council for:

- Provision of a suitable casket
- Taking the deceased to a crematorium if required
- Bring the casket or ashes to Chiseldon for interment
- Arranging a grave digger and other essential funeral requirements such as staff to carry the casket.

Chiseldon Parish Council will provide:

- A suitable plot in either the Butts Road or Sir Henry Calley Memorial Garden.
- The provision of music suitable for the occasion/wishes of the deceased.
- Arranging for the funeral to be publicised locally on social media so that loved ones can pay their respects.
- Arranging a minister or celebrant for a service of the deceased's faith if required.
- The costs for the items above will be covered by the parish council.

Chiseldon Parish Council will not provide:

A memorial stone or flowers will not be supplied but any family can make their own arrangements following Chiseldon Parish Councils standard procedures. Family members should also enquire with the parish council, with regards to purchasing the deed of exclusive right of burial for the plot.

Recovering costs to Chiseldon Parish Council:

If the deceased holds an estate, the Parish Council may try to recover their funeral costs from this estate.

Family members arranging a Public Health Funeral for a family member who holds an estate can request an invoice for costs of the Parish Council, to present to the deceased's bank to get funds released from the estate.



A register of public health funerals must be published by law and contain the following information

- Deceased name
- Deceased address if known
- Date of birth if known
- Date of death if known
- Whether the next of kin has been traced
- Whether the details have been passed to the treasury (for estates with no will and no next of kin to claim)

Plot ownership

The Parish Council will carry out one interment per burial or cremation plot and retain ownership of the plot. This will allow family to purchase the plot at a later time if they wish. The Parish Council reserve the right to place further interments into plots they retain ownership of, if circumstances require it.

The information on the link below may also be of use.

[Dealing and coping with a death | Swindon Borough Council](#)

Further information for the public on ways to meet funeral expenses and alternatives:

If you are unable to meet the cost of funeral expenses and are in receipt of certain state benefits, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Department for Work and Pensions. They will cover reasonable burial or cremation costs, and up to £1000 contribution to other funeral expenses. For more information please visit [Get Help with Funeral Expenses](#)

You can also get free help from [Down to Earth](#) an organisation which offers practical support to those struggling with funeral costs and assistance with applying to the DWP. They have also produced [a guide to planning an affordable and meaningful funeral](#)

If you are unable to meet the cost of funeral expenses and are not in receipt of state benefits, you may wish to first check the funeral costs in your area using the comparison sites [Your Funeral Choice](#) and [Funeral Guide](#) or look into direct cremation, a new low cost funeral option where the deceased is taken away for cremation and the ashes are returned by courier for you to carry out your own personal service or scattering. It is also worth asking funeral directors if they will accept instalments or offer payment plans so that you can spread the cost.

If you have lost a child under 18 or have had a stillborn baby after the 24th week of pregnancy, the [children's funeral fund](#) can help pay for some of the costs.

You do not legally have to use the services of a funeral director at all, and can reduce costs significantly by carrying out the funeral planning yourself, buying elements of the funeral separately and online. Guidance on how to do this is available from [The Natural Death Centre](#)

It is finally worth noting that if the deceased has funds in their bank account, you can make arrangements and then ask the bank to raise a cheque or make a transfer to a funeral company before the funeral, meaning that you do not have to raise any funds yourself.

Policy approved:

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Next approval date: July 2025