

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT – 22ND AUGUST 2007

ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL CHARGES REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Council's Cabinet consider the introduction of two new charges for memorial installations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Bereavement Services section of East Ayrshire Council is now British Register of Memorial Masons (BRAMM) accredited. The Council achieved this accreditation earlier in the year.
- 2.2 The Council also requires all memorial masons working in our cemeteries and churchyards to be BRAMM accredited. All memorial masons working with the council achieved BRAMM accreditation in March 2007.
- 2.3 All those accredited to BRAMM must work to standards set out in the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Safe Working Practice, September 2006. These standards require that memorial Tablets/Plaques and Open Books are fixed by using the appropriate fixing methods.
- 2.4 At present many families and memorial masons place Tablets/Plaques and Open Books in cemeteries and churchyards without applying to the Council or by ensuring they are fixed in line with the NAMM code, this situation should be rectified to ensure that accreditation standards are maintained.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Council currently provides foundations for all headstones installed in its cemeteries, the current cost of a foundation and monumental permit is £121. Foundations required for Tablets / Plaques and Open Books should be available for two different sizes ie: Up to 24 x 18 inches and between 24 x 18 inches and 30 x 24 inches.
- 3.2 The Council will incur costs in installing these foundations and it is therefore proposed that charges are introduced as follows:

Tablets / Plaques and Open Books:	
Up to 24 x 18 inches	£50.00
24 x 18 to 30 x 24 inches	£75.00

These charges would include the monumental permit and the foundation for each installation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There will be additional costs to provide this service; however, these will be offset by the charges proposed in 3.2 above.

5. POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 By ensuring that proper controls are in place covering the installation of foundations for Tablets / Plaques and Open Books, the Council as an accredited BRAMM member will be able to show that it is working to the standards set out in the NAMM code of practice.

- 5.2 The Council is responsible for their cemeteries and the safety of those working, visiting or operating within them. They therefore have duty under the following legislation to ensure that their premises are safe places: -

- (a) Burials Ground (Scotland) Act 1855
- (b) Local Government (Scotland) Act
- (c) Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- (d) The Management of Health and Safety at Work at 1999
- (e) The Occupiers Liability Act 1960

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 By ensuring that foundations are available for the safe installation of Tablets/Plaques and Open Books memorials, the Council will be acting within the standards set out in the NAMM Code of Safe Working Practice.

- 6.2 The Council will recover costs in relation to the service issued to the public and memorial masons that operate within our cemeteries and churchyards.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet: -
- (i) agree to implement the above additional charges in relation to memorial installation services; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/BMcC 17th July 2007

LIST OF BACK GROUND PAPERS

1. Cemetery Management Rules
2. BRAMM Accreditation Scheme Criteria
3. NAMM Code of Safe Working Practice

Any person wishing to inspect any background papers relating to this report, should contact, John Griffiths, Head of Leisure on telephone number (01563) 578179, or by email to - john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk