BW Foundation - Policy for Burials at Woodcock Hill Cemetery Plot J

Background

BW Foundation has pre-purchased 200 grave spaces at Woodcock Hill Cemetery for Muslim burials in a plot known as Section J. This plot is adjacent to the existing plot for Muslim burials at the cemetery, for which BW Foundation is also responsible. Section J has been in use since May 2014 and we anticipated using ten graves per annum. As of September 2015, twenty eight spaces have been used. BW Foundation seeks to standardise memorials in section J for aesthetic, space saving and improved maintenance purposes.

Rationale

In the older Muslim plot, graves were initially dug in sequence and then later in a haphazard way, due to the uncoordinated installation of memorials, some without planning permission. In consequence considerable space has been lost which could have been used more effectively. The length and width of individual graves also varies resulting in a discordant appearance. Similarly, the layout for infant graves and for half graves has not been planned and this has resulted in variable and uneven distribution and loss of viable space.

The shortage of cemetery space in the London area is a known issue. The BW Foundation has a responsibility to ensure that the space available is used in the most efficient way according to Islamic jurisprudence.

BW Foundation as the owner of the graves is ultimately responsible for the memorials at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. Currently many families have erected memorials and in many cases without the requisite planning permission and permit from the Council. Some of these unauthorised memorials have been assessed by the Council as an accident risk for visitors. It is possible that the Council will direct that these unauthorised memorials are removed and BW Foundation may be held financially responsible for removal and restoration.

Policy for burials in Section J, Woodcock Hill Cemetery

1) The graves in section J will be angled so that the body can be interred to face Mecca as required for Muslim burials.
2) Graves will be filled from left to right when facing South (looking uphill).
3) The grave size will be standard as agreed with Three Rivers Council, 2m by 0.75m.

4) The layout of the section will be in the style of a lawn cemetery with a raised headstone (Figure).
5) All gravestones will be of a standard format as illustrated (Figure).
6) A header plinth will be installed in advance on each row, to receive the standard headstone.
7) The style of the headstone, the font, gold colour and the "Bismillah" motif will be standard on all graves. Families will be able to determine the text of the inscription.
8) In line with Council policy, it will not be permissible to place extraneous tokens (e.g. toys, plaques etc.) on the graves.
9) There will be an additional standard charge (reviewed annually or as appropriate) and currently approximately £900 payable in advance to cover the cost of the headstone and plinth, which will form part of the total costs of burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery.
10) Internments will be sequential with no spaces being left between graves and pre-selection of the grave space will not be possible.
11) BW Foundation, as the owner of the grave spaces, may adopt other rules from time to time to aid in its goal of good management and maintenance of the graves and in keeping with prevailing legislation.

THE DECLARATION ON THE BACK MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BEFORE BURIAL CAN PROCEED

<u>PLEASE COMPLETE THIS DECLARATION IN BLOCK CAPITALS EXCEPT FOR THE SIGNATURE</u>

GRAVE NUMBER:

NAME OF DECEASED:

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER AUTHORISED FOR BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

I have been informed that the only memorial allowed in Section J of Woodcock Hill Cemetery is a standard black granite headstone at a cost of £900 payable at the time of burial. I have received and read the BW Foundation policy for burials at Woodcock Hill Cemetery Section J. I have signed below to confirm my understanding and acceptance of this policy.

SIGNATURE: DATE: