

Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

Admin Assistant

L Case (Mat Cover)

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Attendance at Burials and Cremations During Coronavirus (COVID-19)

During the current situation of Coronavirus (Covid 19) the Parish council is following government guidelines and is supported with guidance from the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) in relation to ensuring the appropriate guidelines are followed.

The Parish council are mindful of the central role a funeral plays for loved ones, and its part within the grieving process for families. However, during these extremely challenging times the transmission of the coronavirus at funeral gatherings to people attending, including the elderly, frail, those in vulnerable groups along with funeral directors and burial ground staff must be considered.

The current government advice is that venues, including places of worship are to be closed, except for funerals attended by immediate family and burials will be a graveside service only.

The Government has stated that funerals are exempt from the restriction on social gatherings of only two people, but have issued guidance that says that immediate family only may attend, whether this is a burial or a cremation.

The exemption of funerals by the Government does not give permission for people to attend funerals en masse, the number of people attending must be restricted according to the Government's advice.

The guidelines we have state that the immediate family would be considered to be Spouse/Partner; Parents/carers; Brothers/Sisters; and Children (and partners)

However, anybody, including immediate family, who are subject to the requirement to self-isolate, or if they are showing any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, must not attend a funeral.

Anyone who attends a funeral must observe the rules on social distancing and should follow the general advice on hand hygiene and preventing the spread of infection.

The Parish council appreciate that the current circumstances are very difficult for those that wish to attend and pay their respects at a funeral and have some information on some alternative arrangements to consider which may help during such an emotional time, please contact the Clerk or talk through with your funeral director who will be able to help you too.

The Parish council want to support Parishioners during these unprecedented times, so please contact the Clerk at Clerk@godstone-pc.gov.uk or 01883 744 209 (please leave a message) if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them.