

Partney Parish Council Cemetery Risk Assessment (Issued January 2024: reviewed January 2026 Next review Jan 2027)

Activity	Potential Hazards	What Risks Do They Pose?	Control Measures	Risk Level (High, Medium, Low)	Are Additional Measures Necessary?
Driving – lawn mowers, mechanised digging equipment.	Collisions.	Injury to operatives of equipment or to members of the public.	Only contractors' or funeral directors' equipment allowed in the cemetery.	Low.	Contractors and funeral directors will be liable for their own risk assessment to protect their employees and/or members of the public.
Operating mechanised equipment, including grass and hedge cutters.	Fire and/or operating accidents.	Injury to operatives or members of the public. Burns, cuts, foreign bodies in eyes, smoke inhalation, etc.	The Parish Council ensures that they employ reliable and competent contractors and funeral directors.	Low.	Contractors and funeral directors will be liable for their own risk assessment to protect their employees and/or members of the public.
Excavations or ground works.	Falling, tripping, injuries to back, musculoskeletal injuries, cuts and bruises.	Injury to members of the public, contractors and employees of funeral directors.	The Parish Council ensures that they employ reliable and competent contractors and funeral directors.	Low.	Contractors and funeral directors will be liable for their own Health & Safety measures.
Grave digging.	Infectious disease control.	Infection of contractors and employees of funeral directors.	The Parish Council ensures that they employ reliable and competent contractors and funeral directors.	Low.	Contractors and funeral directors will be liable for their own Health & Safety measures.

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Funeral.	Funeral greeting party injury.	Injury to members of funeral party. Falling, tripping, injuries to back, musculoskeletal injuries, cuts and bruises.	The Parish Council ensures that they employ reliable and competent contractors and funeral directors.	Low.	Funeral directors will be liable for their own Health & Safety measures.
Memorial inspection.	Cuts, bruises, crush injuries.	Injury to Parish Council members, employees, contractors and funeral directors' employees.	Memorials are hand checked monthly. Unstable memorials will be notified to the family for rectification.	Low.	The Parish Council will ensure correct training. If families cannot be contacted, then memorials will be laid down with respect.
Grave and row markers.	Injuries caused by tripping.	Injury to Parish Council members, employees, contractors and funeral directors' employees.	The Parish Council ensure the grass is cut on a regular basis to ensure all markers and existing kerbs are visible.	Low.	The Parish Council ensure that the cemetery is inspected on a monthly basis for this, and other, basic safety and tidiness considerations.
Weedkilling.	Chemical burns and/or breathing problems.	Injury to contractors and members of the public.	The Parish Council does not permit pesticides, of any kind, to be used in the cemetery.	Low.	The Parish Council ensure that all contractors are aware that no pesticides are to be used in the cemetery.

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Walking around the cemetery.	Tree branches hanging at, or around, head height.	Risk of injury to eyes of, anyone in the vicinity of trees in the cemetery, by twigs of low-hanging branches.	Tree branches cut back to a safe height when they grow too low. Tree safety reports carried out by qualified persons, periodically.	Low.	The Parish Council ensure that the cemetery is inspected on a monthly basis for this, and other, basic safety and tidiness considerations.
Walking around the cemetery.	Uneven, and sometimes soft, ground. Rabbit holes.	Risk of trip or strain/sprain injury to anyone visiting the cemetery.	Sign erected at entrance to cemetery, warning of uneven/soft ground and the trip hazard it represents.	Low.	The Parish Council inspect the cemetery, monthly. Rabbit holes are filled in periodically. There is little else the Parish Council can do about this. The cemetery is sited on rural land that is somewhat uneven and becomes soggy when wet. People walking on the soft ground can cause it to become more uneven.
Filling flower vases with water.	Burst pipe	Soft wet ground	Drain standpipe in very cold weather.	Low.	

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Dog fouling.	Infection and unpleasant environment.	Risk of infection and, potentially, a hazardous and unpleasant environment for anyone visiting, or working in, the cemetery.	No control can be implemented as the cemetery is in a fairly remote, rural location and is open day and night, all year round.	Low	Sign now erected at the entrance gate reminding dog owners of their responsibilities and the punitive measures for non-compliance.
Lone working.	Any serious injury.	Parish Council members or volunteers may become injured and unable to move.	A mobile phone signal can be obtained in the cemetery. All persons alone in the cemetery should carry a charged mobile phone and should let someone know that they will be in the cemetery.	Low.	The Parish Council, if aware that someone will be working on their own in the cemetery, should advise such persons to ensure that they carry a charged mobile phone and let family or friends know that they will be in the cemetery.
Seating.	Injury due to poor maintenance.	Anyone in the cemetery, using the seating provided, could be injured if the seating is not maintained properly.	Control is by regular monthly safety inspections.	Low.	The Parish Council ensure that the cemetery is inspected on a monthly basis for this, and other, basic safety and tidiness considerations.