

## HIGH WYCOMBE CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW FOR 2017/18

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**Wards affected:** All High Wycombe Town Wards

### PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

That approval be given for the proposed charges as detailed in paragraphs 6 -10 to take effect from 1 April 2017.

#### Corporate Implications

1. The Council, as a burial authority for the purpose of Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972, is authorised by the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 (as amended) to charge such fees as it thinks proper, and in fixing fees may take account of the fact that cost in connection with High Wycombe Town Cemetery are designated Special Expenses.

#### Executive Summary

2. High Wycombe Town Committee is asked to agree the 2017/18 fees and charges for High Wycombe Cemetery to recommend to Cabinet for approval.

#### Sustainable Community Strategy / Council Priorities - Implications

3. This links to the Council's Pounds priority to deliver value for money.

#### Background and Issues

4. This report outlines the 2016/17 charges and the proposed charges for 2017/18. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2016 was 1% this has been used as the proposed inflation rate.

#### Burial Data

5. The number of burials for 2015/16, is shown in the table below.

Number of burials						
Year	Standard Adult Burial	Concrete Frame	Steel Frame	Ashes	Total	Child/ Snowdrop
2011/12	75	N/A	20	22	<b>117</b>	20
2012/13	68	N/A	19	35	<b>122</b>	27
2013/14	73	N/A	36	25	<b>134</b>	17
2014/15	80	13	29	33	<b>155</b>	20
2015/16	56	24	7	38	<b>125</b>	26
Average number	<b>70</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>22</b>

It needs to be noted that the number of burials varies year on year

### Proposed Prices for 2016/17

6. Burial Rights – The burial rights fee is charged for each grave and provides the owner with an Exclusive Right of Burial (Deed) for 50 years. This is not ownership of the land but the right to be buried in a specific grave, to authorise further burial(s) in the grave or the interment of cremated remains where space allows and to erect or place a memorial on that grave. The proposed increase for 2017/18 is based on 1% inflation.

Burial Rights	2016/17 Charge	Proposed 2017/18 Charges
Adult	£706	£713
Child	£353	£357
Ashes	£412	£416

7. Memorial Permit – The memorial charges were benchmarked with other cemeteries in late 2013. The proposed increase for 2017/18 is based on 1% inflation.

Memorial Permit	2016/17 Charge	Proposed 2017/18 Charges
Adult	£188	£190
Child	£92	£93
Ashes	£92	£93

8. Saturday Fee – There is a fee for interments which occur on a Saturday. This fee is based on the costs of staff from the Council and contractor being on standby and overtime. In the last financial year there were 2 burials on a Saturday. The proposed increase for 2017/18 is based on 1% inflation.

Saturday Fee	2016/17 Charge	Proposed 2017/18 Charges
One off Fee	£263.57	£266

9. Interment fees for child burials – The current policy is that no interment fees are charged for child burials. It is recommended that this remains the case.
10. Interment fees – The recommendation is to increase the interment fees by inflation (1%) as detailed in the table:

	2016/17 Charges	Proposed 2017/18 Charges
Interment - Adult	£314	£317
Interment - Child	£0	£0
Interment - Ashes	£166	£168
Interment – Concrete	£1,070	£1,081

### **Conclusions**

11. The Committee is asked to consider the proposed charges as set out above and agree its recommendations for Cabinet.

### **Next Steps**

12. If approved by Cabinet the charges will take effect from 1 April 2017.

### **Background Papers**

None