

HIGH WYCOMBE CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW FOR 2018/19

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Wards affected: All High Wycombe Town Wards

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

That approval be given for the proposed charges as detailed in paragraphs 6 -11 to take effect from 1 April 2018.

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 2018/19 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 2017/18 charges and the proposed charges for 2018/19. The Cemetery fees remain at the same level as 2015/16. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2017 was 3% this has been used as the proposed inflation rate.

Burial Data

5. Annual burial numbers last 5 years.

Number of burials						
Year	Standard Adult Burial	Concrete Frame	Steel Frame	Ashes	Total	Child/Snowdrop
2012/13	68	N/A	19	35	122	27
2013/14	73	N/A	36	25	134	17
2014/15	80	13	29	33	155	20
2015/16	55	24	7	38	124	18
2016/17	60	19	0	45	124	24

Proposed Prices for 2018/19

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 2018/19 is based on 3% inflation.

Burial Rights	2017/18 Charge	Proposed 2018/19 Charges
Adult	£706	£727
Child	£353	£364
Ashes	£412	£424

7. Memorial Permit – The memorial charges were benchmarked with other cemeteries in late 2013. The proposed increase for 2018/19 is based on 3% inflation.

Memorial Permit	2017/18 Charge	Proposed 2018/19 Charges
Adult	£188	£194
Child	£92	£95
Ashes	£92	£95

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 5 burials on a Saturday. The proposed increase for 2018/19 is based on 3% inflation.

Saturday Fee	2017/18 Charge	Proposed 2018/19 Charges
One off Fee	£263.57	£271

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 3% as detailed in the table below:

	2017/18 Charges	Proposed 2018/19 Charges
Interment - Adult	£314	£323

Interment - Child	£0	£0
Interment - Ashes	£166	£171
Interment – Concrete	£1,070	£1,102

11. Grave reservation – The recommendation is to increase the reservation fees by inflation 3% as detailed in the table below:

Reservation fee	2017/18 Charge	Proposed 2018/19 Charges
One off Fee Initial fee	£218	£225
Annual reservation fee	£168	£173

Conclusions

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

Next Steps

- If approved by Cabinet the charges will take effect from 1 April 2018.

Background Papers

None