

Members are requested to:

- NOTE this report
- CONSIDER the recommendations
- NOTE the Burials Report previously sent by email

Background

At the Parish meeting held on 1st April 2021 the Burial Fees and Regulations were considered (the fees had not been increased since 2014) and amendments were agreed at the 29th April meeting. The minutes at the time did not reflect the correct decisions made, with no reference to a review of regulations, and the increase in fees was not implemented by the Clerk.

At the Parish Meeting held on 1st April 2021 at Min Ref. 033/21

Cemetery Fees

The Chairman presented his written report to members. He calculated an estimated cost of £3,000 per annum to maintain the Cemetery. Discussion included:

- Should Fees charged completely cover the annual maintenance costs?
- Can “proof of residency” be accepted rather than “appearing on Electoral Register” during the last three years to qualify for residents’ rates.
- Are Grants of Right to Exclusive Burial still needed? It is understood some Cemetery Authorities no longer use them.

RESOLVED to increase all Cemetery fees by £50 for residents and to increase burial fees for non - residents to £550. These charges will be reviewed annually, during the budget cycle.

At the Meeting of 29th April – the following amendments were agreed by Members: The words ‘proof of residency for 3 years is required and Grants of Exclusive Rights will remain’

As six months have passed, and we are now starting the precept cycle, Members are asked to reconsider the fees, taking into consideration updated information and additional amendments to the Burial Regulations – prior to a full review.

Ongoing Costs to the Council

There are approximately 291 occupied full graves and 63 (x2) cremated remains.

Free spaces are hard to identify at the current time, believed to be 31 full plots and 18 cremated remains plots.

Exclusive Rights are issued for a period of 75 years (currently Cemetery maintenance is estimated at £5400 per year) therefore £5400 x 75 years = £405,000 divided by 400 = a total of occupied and free spaces = £1,012 per plot.

Members are requested to CONSIDER the following requests and the fees

- a. Burials of those under 18 will be Free of Charge (April decision)
- b. To purchase only the ‘next available plot’ option due to reducing availability (there is no mention of choice in the Cemetery Regulations, but does appear on the 2014 fee list)
- c. No memorial can be erected within 12 months of a full burial taking place to allow settlement of the ground. (this is a recommendation - as previously this was 6 months)
- d. Remove references to Public Graves from Cemetery Regulations

PTO for fee analysis

The figures below in bold have had the £50 increase (as agreed at the April meeting) but it is now shown across all the categories.

Description	New Fee £	LMPC 2014	RWB	Malmesbury 2020	Braydon
Number of ExR Years	75 yrs	75 yrs	60 yrs	40 yrs	75 yrs
Full Burials					
Grant of Exclusive Rights	275.00	225.00	372.00	430.00	356.00
Interment over 18 years	275.00	225.00	432.00	352.00	637.00
Cremated Remains					
Grant of Exclusive Rights	175.00	125.00	200.00	236.00	213.00
Interment over 18 years	175.00	125.00	141.00	220.00	419.00
Interment in Full Grave					
Memorials					
Right to Erect a Headstone or Flat Memorial	175.00	125.00	200.00	273.00	282.00
Replacement	100.00	0.00	102.00	115.00	108.00
Additional Inscription	100.00	50.00	102.00	115.00	108.00
Burials and Memorial Fee for Non-Residents is Doubled					

Members to NOTE and CONSIDER the Lydiard Parish Council fees are much lower than the 3 comparison parishes.

Members to CONSIDER an additional fee for the cleaning, re-leading and repairing of memorials – suggested fee of £50 – as Parish Council administration costs do apply for this service.

Tina Jones
September 2021