

West Rainton Parish Council

Item XXX : Annual Review of Cemetery fees and charges

Report of M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

At its' meeting held on 15 March 2018 Parish Council agreed to an increase in cemetery fees for the first time in four years. This was in the context that maintenance and development of the cemetery should be self-financing.

Parish Council additionally agreed to review the fees and charges on an annual basis.

In March 2019 Parish Council agreed to an inflationary increase of 1.8% in line with inflation, in 2020/21 fees were uplifted by 2% and in 2021/22 the fees were again uplifted by 2%.

The table below shows the current charges (2021/22)

Service	Fee
Double	£529.00
Single	£317.00
Cremated Remains	£159.00
Re-Open	£159.00
Child up to 16 years	No Charge
Memorial Erection Fees	£80.00
Search Fee	£27.00

Income from the Cemetery for the last 3 years:

YEAR	INCOME
2018/19	£1525
2019/20	£2668
2020/21	£2871
2021/22	Under £1000

Despite the desire for the Cemetery to be self-funding, it is clear for the last 4 years that this has not been the case whilst the price for the Cemetery maintenance contract has risen to £3731.64 + VAT for 2022/23.

For information, the rates for inflation are calculated by the Office for National Statistics and the most recent figures available are: CPI 4.9% & RPI 7.8%.

Recommendation

In order to continue to meet increasing costs Parish Council is asked to consider an increase of 5% on its current Cemetery Fees to become effective from 1st April 2022.

For illustrative purposes, this figure has been applied on a blanket basis to the current charges, rounded to the nearest pound.

Service	Proposed 2022/23 Fee
Double	£555.00
Single	£333.00
Cremated Remains	£167.00
Re-Open	£167.00
Child up to 16 years	No Charge
Memorial Erection Fees	£84.00
Search Fee	£28.00

Mark Ramshaw

Parish Clerk – 7th March 2022