**Fees for Parish Council services 2024/25**

**Purpose of the report**

The purpose of the report is to advise and explain the process for making an informed decision on the fees for all parish council services.

**Background information**

Fees and increases over the last few years

* + 2014 – Fees held
  + 2015 – Fees held
  + 2016 – 2.5% increase except for May Market held, Wakes 1%
  + 2017 – 1.9% increase, except for events all held
  + 2018 – Fees held except for MIP food raised to £65
  + 2019 – Recreation, Allotment and Cemetery – 3%; May Market and Wakes hold – MIP – increase by £5 and Community Hub – hold and then review.
  + 2020 – All fees held except for Cemetery where the figures were rounded up to the nearest £5.
  + 2021 – Hold fees except Village Hall which need discussing separately as transfer only happened 19/1/2021.
  + 2022 – ALL building facilities – 10%.
  + 2023 – ALL building facilities – 10%,

**Recommendation for 2024-25.**

The recommendation is for a **7% increase** across the board (rounded) for all areas of service provision.

This proposed increase includes a rate of inflation increase and is comparable to other facilities and bodies.

In terms of burial fees, the Parish Council has historically aligned its fees with NWLDC. However, these now appear to be somewhere apart. Having briefly reviewed other burial authorities, it is quite difficult to compare fees as the prices vary considerably, depending on position within in a cemetery, whether grave digging is included or not, etc.

Burial paper work does take a considerable amount of time and brings in a reasonable amount of money. Maintenance of the cemetery is quite costly too, with all work being undertaken by hand.

**The aim is to continue to ensure the fees are relative, reasonable and that all the facilities and services are provided at the best possible cost and highest standard for the local community and all users.**