

**Cemetery Fees
Council 13 December 2016**

RECOMMENDED

- (i) that the Town Council agree the Ilminster cemetery fees to be charged with effect from 1 April 2017
- (ii) that burials are permitted in the new section marked out by the cemetery consultant
- (iii) that a decision is made to permit burials in the newly identified and marked plots
- (iv) that decision are made about the pre-purchasing of Exclusive Rights of Burial
- (v) that special conditions a & b on the existing fees are re-worded
- (vi) that Councillors consider other matters associated with fees including:
 - the age at which interment fees change
 - the length of time for which an Exclusive Right of Burial is granted
 - the possibility of introducing a basic grave / headstone maintenance service
 - buying back plots where Exclusive Rights of Burial have not been exercised and are no longer wanted

Attachments to this Report:

1. Ilminster Town Council Cemetery Fees for 2016/17
2. Plan of Ilminster Cemetery
3. Chard Town Council Cemetery Fees
4. Crewkerne & West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee Fees
5. Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee Fees
6. Taunton Deane Cemeteries and Crematorium Fees and Charges
7. Sherborne Town Council Cemetery Fees

Introduction

1. As part of the budget process it is prudent to review charges for all fees and services. The Ilminster cemetery fees were considered as part of the budget process for 2016/17 but no increase was agreed; the Ilminster cemetery fees were last increased on 1 April 2014.

Contextual Information

2. The burial authorities of neighbouring towns were contacted for information on their current cemetery fees. The tables below show a simple comparison of the most commonly incurred charges in Ilminster cemetery.

Agenda No 12

Table 1 Burial of a Parishioner over 12 years of age

Place	Exclusive Right of Burial Charge (ERB_	Interment Charge	Total	Notes / Comments
Ilminster	£233.	£180.	£413	1. ERB is for 100 years 2. Grave digging is arranged by the undertaker approx cost £500 for a full burial and £150 for an ashes plot
Chard	£250	£500	£750	1.ERB is for 50 years and can be extended every 5years up to a maximum total of 100 years – each 5 year extension is £25.00 2. The interment fee includes grave digging
Crewkerne	£270	£160	£430	1. ERB of 99 years
Yeovil	£424	£473	£897	
Taunton Deane	£700.00	£660	£1,360	1. The ERB is for 75 years 2. The interment fee includes grave digging
Sherborne	£500	£150	£650	ERB for 75 years

Table 2 Burial of Ashes for a Parishioner

Place	Exclusive Right of Burial Charge (ERB_	Interment Charge	Total	Notes / Comments
Ilminster	£88	£180	£268	ERB is for 100 years Grave digging is arranged by the undertaker approx cost £500 for a full burial and £150 for an ashes plot
Chard	£175	£175	£350	ERB is for 50 years and can be extended every 5years up to a maximum total of 100 years – each 5 year extension is £25.00 2. The interment fee includes grave digging
Crewkerne	£150	£105	£255	ERB for 99 years
Yeovil	£294	£200	£494	ERB for 75 years
Taunton Deane	£460	£130	£590	ERB for 75 years
Sherborne	250	75.00		ERB for 75 years

Agenda No 12

Non-Parish Resident

3. Ilminster, Chard, Crewkerne, Yeovil and Sherborne all charge double the amounts in Tables 1 & 2 above where the deceased is not a resident of the parish

Table 3 –New Memorials / Monuments / Headstones

Place	Burial Plot	Ashes Plot	Notes / Comments
Ilminster	£110	£83	1. Burial plot – headstone not exceeding 3ft 6” 2. Ashes plot headstone not exceeding 2ft high
Chard	£131		1. Headstone up to 5ft high or tablet
Crewkerne	£140		Headstone 2ft X 2ft 6” high
Yeovil	£175		
Taunton Deane	£170		
Sherborne	£50		

Table 4 Additional Inscriptions on Memorials

Place	Fee
Ilminster	£29
Chard	£44
Crewkerne	£55
Yeovil	£41
Taunton Deane	£67
Sherborne	£30

Table 5 Transfer of Ownership of ERB

Ilminster	0
Chard	£45
Crewkerne	£50
Yeovil	
Taunton Deane	
Sherborne	£30

Agenda No 12

4. In Ilminster, over the last couple of years, we have been working hard to encourage transfer of ERBs – it is a legal process and means that the cemetery records are more accurate and reduces the risk of problems when family members want further interments in a plot. In a straightforward case the process can take as little as an hour to do the administration – more complicated cases, where Statutory Declarations are required and family histories need to be confirmed, from application to transfer can take many months – which may be distressing for the family if they are waiting for an interment.

New Burial Plots

5. Following some trial excavations, the cemetery consultant has measured and marked 2 new rows of burial plots, the drawing and digging instructions are awaited. At the Town Council meeting on 17 May 2016 it was resolved “*That no further burial plots are sold and remaining land is used for ashes plots*” the Town Council could now resolve to permit full burials in the newly marked plots – the approximate location is shown on the attached cemetery map highlighted in pink annotated “Y”

Pre-Purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial (ERB) for Burial and Ashes Plots

6. At the Town Council meeting on 23 February it was resolved “*to stop selling burial and cremation plots in advance*”. Now that new plots have been identified the Town Council is asked to consider
 - a) Whether or not any plots – burials and / or ashes should be available for pre-purchased Exclusive Rights of Burial?
 - b) If pre-purchases are to be permitted is there a limit on the number sold?
 - c) If pre-purchases are to be permitted is that limited to current residents of Ilminster?
 - d) Should pre-purchased ERBs be the same charges as those purchased for immediate use?

Other Associated Matters

7. Special Conditions A & B of the Schedule of Fees need to be re-worded as an individual Councillor is not legally able to make a decision on behalf of the Town Council - suggested wording is
 - “a) The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Mayor, may waive the interment fee in the case of a still born child.”
 - “b) if selection of a site for interment creates a problem the Town Clerk will make the decision following consultation with the Mayor.”
8. Councillors may also wish to consider
 - (i) The age at which an interment fee changes (Ilminster it is 12 years of age, other places use 16 years)
 - (ii) The length of time for which an ERB is granted
 - (iii) Whether or not the Town Council wishes to offer and charge for a grave / memorial maintenance service - the service level and fees to be subject to a further report
 - (iv) Whether or not the Town Council is willing to buy back plots where an ERB has not been exercised – and the amounts it would be willing to pay if such plots and owners were identified

Report prepared: 9 December 2016

Contact for Further Information: Town Clerk, email town.council@ilminster.gov.uk or tel 01460 52149