



## **Full Council Meeting**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **FC068 – Interment Fees for Deed Holders who Pre-Purchased Prior to 2017 Price Increases**

#### **1. Background**

Back in 2017 Cuckfield Parish Council (CPC) resolved to increase the burial fees for non-parishioners from 2x resident fee to 4x resident fee. At the time, as a goodwill gesture, CPC resolved to honour the x2 rate for those deed holders who had made a pre-purchase prior to 2017 rather than them asking them to pay the current x4 rate.

In the 5 years since the price increase was imposed, it has become clear that many people who pre-purchased their plots have still (thankfully) not had cause to use their plot. This means the discount rate is still being offered.

Researching our records highlights that there are potentially 79 non-parishioners who pre-purchased a full burial plot prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Of these, 19 are double depth interments. This is having a significant impact on our income, as explained below.

#### **2. Costs**

The following calculation demonstrates the loss of income for the 19 double depth full burials purchased prior to 2017:

Non-Parishioner Double Depth Full Burial Interment (pre 2017 costs)

$$£720 \times 2 = £1,440 \times 19 = £27,360$$

Non-Parishioner Double Depth Full Burial Interment (current costs)

$$£2,900 \times 19 = £55,100$$

This is a loss of £27,740 potential income

The following calculation demonstrates the loss of income for the 60 single depth full burials purchased prior to 2017:

Non-Parishioner Single Depth Full Burial Interment (pre 2017 costs)

$$£660 \times 2 = £1,320 \times 60 = £79,200$$

Non-Parishioner Single Depth Full Burial Interment (current costs)

$$£2,660 \times 60 = £159,600$$

This is a loss of £80,400 potential income

This is for the full burials only; this ruling also applies to ashes interments although as the fees are lower in general this is less of an impact. However, there are always many more ashes burials than full burials.

**3. Recommendations**

My recommendation is that we should continue with the discount for the remainder of 2022 but from 2023 stop honouring the pre-2017 fees. Honouring the previous rates for 5 years is a more than reasonable length of time. This will also allow us to give notice to all Funeral Directors of the change in fees.

Name: Sam Heynes  
Title Parish Clerk  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022