

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Item 8 : Annual Review of Cemetery fees and charges

Report of M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

Cemetery Fees

The Parish Council conducts an annual review of cemetery fees and charges in the context that maintenance and development of the cemetery should be self-financing, in accordance with good practice.

The review also takes into consideration inflation as calculated by the Office for National Statistics (OFNS)

Historical fee increases include 1.8% in 2020/21, 2% in 2021/22, 5% in 2022/23, 11% in 2023/24, 5% in 2024/25 and 10% in 2025/26.

The most recent ONS inflation rate (CPI) is around 3.2%.

Expenditure on the general maintenance of the cemetery since 2018 remains significantly higher than income generated as illustrated in the table below:

YEAR	INCOME	*Expenditure
2018/19	£1525	£12951
2019/20	£2668	£9049
2020/21	£2871	£6916
2021/22	£1114	£5021
2022/23	£2806	£7257
2023/24	£2127	£5098
2024/25	£1544	£5144
2025/26 (Up to end of Q3)	£2229	£10730

*This includes, ad hoc environmental improvements, planned grounds maintenance, responsive grounds maintenance, water rates, and waste collection services.

It should be noted that the current contractor has agreed a one year extension of the maintenance contract with no increase to the 2025/26 rates.

As a result, Parish Council should consider an appropriate level of increase to apply to the Cemetery fees. The table below gives an indication of some of our fees and possible increases.

BURIAL FEES		UPLIFT		
ALLOCATION OF GRAVE PLOT WITH EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL	£	3%	5%	10%
3ft X 7ft SINGLE PLOT	430	£433	£452	£473
3ft X 7ft DOUBLE DEPTH	715	£737	£751	£787
CREMATED REMAINS Plot (3ft x3ft)	215	£222	£226	£237
**SINGLE CHILD BURIAL PLOT (3ft up to max 7ft)	Free	Free	Free	Free
RE-OPEN FEE FOR SECOND BURIAL				
DOUBLE GRAVE PLOT	215	£222	£226	£237
CREMATED REMAINS	70	£73	£74	£77
Above prices are doubled for out of area resident				

Memorial Tree Leaf Fee

In September 2022 our memorial tree was installed and became operational. Individual leaves are currently offered for a fee of £180.00 for a 20-year lease, including inscription and a colour motif.

The current cost of replacing a blank leaf with an inscribed leaf with a motif is £90.00 (£65.00 without a motif)

The supplier has advised of no price increases for 2026/27.

Our current fee of £180 is applied whether or not a motif is requested, in accordance with the Parish Council's agreed charging structure to only have one fee. To date all leaves purchased have included a motif.

To date 20 leaves have been purchased and income from those purchases is £3239.

The current OFNS inflation rate is around 3.2%.

Please see table below for an indication of potential increases:

Current Price	5%	10%	20%
£180	£189	£198	£216

For Consideration:

1. Burial Fees

Parish Council consider this report and agree a % increase on burial fees with effect from 1/4/2026

2. Memorial Tree Leaf Fee

Paris Council consider this report and agree a % increase with effect from 1/4/26

Mark Ramshaw

Parish Clerk – 13th March 2026