

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 24 June 2010

Review of Cemetery and Crematorium Fees and Charges

Report of the Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Ken Hayward)

1. Executive Summary

1.1 A few amendments to the Cemeteries and Crematorium fees and charges are requested to enable the service to be more competitive, offer a better service to the funeral directors and make better use of resources.

1.2 This report requests the removal of the 4 pm (chapel service time) surcharge, the introduction of a 'delivery only' facility, the removal of double fees for non-residents, reduce additional service time fee, a Saturday burial fee and a setting of a Saturday cremation fee.

1.3 The introduction of the 'delivery fee' is a new service, which is intended to attract funeral directors from a wider catchment area. The proposed fee is lower than the normal cremation fee as it does not involve full use of crematorium facilities. It is a competitive fee to encourage use by funeral directors who have the opportunity to use other crematoria.

2. Background

2.1 On Wednesday, 26 May 2010 a meeting was held at Taunton Deane Crematorium with a number of local funeral directors. A few areas of improvement, which should result in an increase in the use of the crematorium, were identified. These areas require amendments to the attached fees and charges in order to be implemented.

2.2 The Crematorium fees and charges are usually taken annually to Council but these amendments may increase the use of the services so are being presented at this meeting.

The areas of change are:

- (a) **Surcharge.** Removal of the 4 pm surcharge to help the service be more competitive, neither of our nearest crematoria; Weston Super Mare or Yeovil, apply this fee.
- (b) **Cremation Deliveries.** The introduction of three early times for the delivery of the deceased at a reduced cremation fee without any form of service.
 - (i) This will provide the crematorium with extra available service times later on in the day;

- (ii) Be better able to programme the cremation timetable which will result in more efficient use of resources; and
 - (iii) An improved service to the funeral trade which will encourage those on the borders with neighbouring crematoria to use this facility.
- (c) **Burial.** The removal of the double fees for non-residents. This will encourage better use from outside of the borough and take away the anomaly of a family having lived in the Deane for many years only to have moved away and having to pay double fees to be buried here.
- (d) **Saturday Cremation Fee.** Occasionally when a family requests a service on a Saturday, the Crematorium will oblige if staffing is available and the cremation fee is currently doubled. A fee of £800 would be more realistic rather than £1,100.
- (e) **Saturday Burial Fee.** This fee to be added when a Saturday burial is provided.
- (f) **Additional Service Time (reduce fee).** This will encourage funeral directors to book an additional time for large funerals.

3. Supporting Information

3.1 The Taunton Deane Cremation Fee is currently £550, the delivery fee is proposed at £450 reducing the current fee by £100. The impact of reducing this fee against other local Crematoria would show a reduction in fees charged:

Exeter actual Fee (saving of £168.00)

Weston Super Mare actual Fee 560 (saving of £110.00)

Yeovil actual Fee £515 (saving of £65.00)

3.2 Importantly receiving early funerals will enable us to have an improved programme for the use of our cremators; in some instances we will only use one or two cremators rather than three, providing additional savings through reductions in gas and electricity (savings not known at this stage).

3.3 The 4.00pm surcharge is £68. Funerals directors obviously try wherever possible to avoid paying this additional charge and may choose to use other crematoria. Weston or Yeovil do not apply this fee. During 2009, 1.6 cremations per week had the additional surcharge applied, the additional income totalled £5,600, or the equivalent of 10 funerals. It is hoped that additional business to both the crematorium and cemeteries will offset this loss.

3.4 Proposals - Impact on Income

Description	Cost Implications
Remove Surcharge	Estimated Full Year loss £5600, (equates to 10 funerals per annum) but removing could potentially attract more business to the crematorium.
Early Deliveries	Could attract additional business from outside our catchment area. Anticipated 20 funerals per annum 20x£450 =£9,000.

Burial "double fees"	Additional income estimated between £500 and £1,000 per annum.
Saturday Cremation & Burial	Additional income estimated between £500 & £1,000.
Additional Service Time	Increased family usage if the fee is reduced. Income should remain constant.

4. Finance Comments

4.1 The above measures may in the first instance reduce income levels but an indication from the Service Manager is that the reduction in fees would make the service more competitive and income levels may increase or remain constant. In addition there could be a reduction in expenditure levels due to utility costs savings.

5. Legal Comments

There are no legal implications

6. Climate Change

The change in the cremation schedule will enable the Crematorium to better programme the cremation timetable. This will result in having days when only one or possibly two cremators will be used rather than three. This will reduce use in both the gas and electricity required to run these machines.

7. Environmental Implications

Receiving the deceased early in the day will assist as detailed above in 6.

8. Equalities Impact

None identified

9. Risk Management

None identified

10. Partnership Implications

None identified

11. Recommendation

It is recommended that Full Council adopts the amendments to the Fees and Charges highlighted in this report.

Contact: Paul Rayson
01823 284811
p.rayson@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Taunton Deane Cemeteries and Crematorium

Table of Fees and Charges

Effective from 1 August 2010

Table of fees and other charges, the payment of which may be demanded under Section 9 of the Cremation Act 1902, by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for the cremation of human remains.

Part 1 - Cremation

For the Cremation:-	£
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month;	20.00
(ii) of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed sixteen years;	103.00
(iii) of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded sixteen years;	550.00
(iv) Cremation delivery fee;	450.00
(v) use of Chapel for additional service time.	100.00
(vi) Saturday cremation fee;	800.00
(vii) Chapel Attendant pall-bearing fee.	18.00

NOTE:- The Cremation fee includes:-
Use of Chapel, waiting room etc.
Services of organist and use of organ
Services of chapel attendant, which includes playing CDs, tapes, etc.
Medical referee's fee
Disposal of cremated remains in Garden of Rest
Certificate for burial of cremated remains
Provision of Polytainer when required

Part 2 - Urns

	£
Supply of Urn or Casket:-	
Stratford	38.00
Avon/Stirling	44.00
Malvern	54.00
Metal Postal	49.00

Part 3 - Cremated Remains

(i) Temporary deposit of cremated remains:-	
First month	20.00
Each subsequent month	24.00
(ii) Forwarding cremated remains excluding carriage	25.00
(iii) Collection of cremated remains on a Saturday (when available)	58.00

Part 4 - Memorials

(i) Entries in Book of Memory:-	
Two line inscription	56.00
Five line inscription	77.00
Eight line inscription	107.00
Flower) with five or eight	51.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	72.00
(ii) Memorial Cards:-	
Two line inscription	28.00
Five line inscription	35.00
Eight line inscription	38.00
Flower) with five or eight	51.00
Badge or Coat of Arms) line inscription only	72.00
(iii) Miniature Books:-	
Two line inscription	56.00
Five line inscription	70.00
Eight line inscription	74.00
Flower	51.00
Badge or Coat of Arms	72.00

Subsequent inscriptions		
	Per line	19.00
	Flower	51.00
	Badge or Coat of Arms	72.00
(iv)	Cornish Granite tablet for a ten year period	
	Standard memorial tablet	335.00
	Memorial tablet with vase	388.00
	Provision of flower container in existing tablet	53.00
	Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	167.00
(v)	Memorial plaque for a five year period	238.00
	Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	119.00
(vi)	Baby memorial plaques for a ten year period	74.00
<u>Part 5 - Other Fees and Charges</u>		
(i)	Certified extract from Register of Cremations	19.00

NOTE:- The charges in Part 4 and 5 (ii) include VAT.

Cemeteries

Table of Fees and Charges

Effective from 1 August 2010

Table of fees and other charges fixed by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for and in connection with burials in the Taunton Deane St. Mary's, St. James and Wellington Cemeteries.

Part 1 - Interments

The fees indicated for the various heads of this part include the digging of the grave but do not include the walling of a vault or walled grave. £

1. For the interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has not been granted:-
 - (i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year; 113.00
 - (ii) of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year. 298.00
2. For any interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted:-
 - (i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year:-

at SINGLE depth	129.00
at DOUBLE depth	156.00
at TREBLE depth	182.00
 - (ii) of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year but did not exceed ten:-

at SINGLE depth	251.00
at DOUBLE depth	296.00
at TREBLE depth	320.00

(iii)	for the body of a person whose age exceeds ten years:-	£
	at SINGLE depth	378.00
	at DOUBLE depth	444.00
	at TREBLE depth	501.00
3.	Saturday burial (when available);	180.00
4.	For the interment of cremated remains:-	
(i)	in Garden of Remembrance (where cremation has not taken place at Taunton Deane Crematorium)	50.00
(ii)	in any grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted	94.00
(iii)	Saturday interment (when available)	90.00
(iv)	To witness interment in Garden of Rest when cremation has taken place at Taunton.	20.00

Part 2 - Exclusive Rights of Burial in Earthen Graves

1. Taunton Deane Cemetery:-

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.3 m by 1.2 m

(i)	in Division L	454.00
(ii)	in Division A	550.00
(iii)	in Division B	447.00
(iv)	Cremated remains grave 78 cm by 76 cm	320.00

2. St. Mary's and St. James Cemeteries:-

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.6 m by 1.2 m

477.00

3. Wellington Cemetery:-

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave

(i)	2.3 m by 1.2 m	477.00
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(ii) 1.2 m by 0.6 m 320.00

The fees indicated in Part 2 include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof.

Part 3 - Memorials and Inscriptions

For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted.

	£
1. In any "Traditional Section":-	
(i) a flat stone, kerbstone or any other form of memorial;	170.00
(ii) a headstone or cross with base, bases or tablet;	152.00
(iii) an inscribed stone vase.	58.00
2. In any "Lawn Section":-	
(i) a headstone;	152.00
(ii) an inscribed vase.	58.00
3. Cremated remains flat tablet	152.00
4. Each removal of memorial for additional inscriptions.	58.00

Part 4 - Other Fees and Charges

1. Certified extract from the Register of Burials.	20.00
2. Burial service in Crematorium Chapel (fee includes the use of Chapel, organ and the organist's fee);	100.00
3. Register search.	20.00