

## Full Council meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### **Agenda Item 8. ANNUAL FEES & CHARGES REVIEW 2024/25**

At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Amenities & Leisure Committee conducted the annual fees and charges review and agreed on **RECOMMENDATIONS** to be presented to Full Council for approval. All increases (excepting Allotment fees) to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

#### **Mays Lane Cemetery**

It was agreed that the distinction between fees for Earley residents and those for non-residents should be maintained. Councillors considered the comparison charges available and agreed to recommend that

*There be no increase to fees and charges for 2024/25 except for the following:*

- *Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial – increase from £62 to £100*
- *10 year extension to ERB – increase from £40 to £100*

#### **Culver Lane Allotments**

Owing to the nature of allotment contracts, fees are set a year ahead, all changes to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Councillors agreed to recommend an increase of 50p or £1 to each class of plot, and an increase of £1 to membership of the horticultural society. The proposed new fees, wef 1/1/25, will be

Raised beds -	£14.00	
3 Pole -	£35.00	
4 Pole -	£42.00	Horticultural Society - £38.00
6 Pole -	£53.00	
8 Pole -	£62.00	

#### **Hall Hire**

The Committee considered comparable fees in the local area and were provided with details of current availability in ETC's halls. They also considered how far hall hire income had recovered since the pandemic (income is currently 80% of pre-pandemic levels). The Bookings Officer had pointed out that the hire charge for parties (children's) was very low compared with other local provision, and, in addition, this type of booking required more caretaking time than regular hires. It was unanimously agreed to recommend the following:

- A new 'Parties' (children's) charge would be introduced at £22.00 per hour
- All other charges would remain unchanged
- ETC will promote the availability of particular time slots at individual halls to raise awareness and, hopefully attract new bookings

#### **Fishing Permits**

HMRC legislation has changed and VAT is no longer payable on fishing permits. Previous fees have been inclusive of VAT. Councillors agreed that the recommendation would be for no increase in the charge for fishing permits in 2024/25.

#### **Sports Pitch Hire**

The change in VAT legislation also applies to the hire of sports pitches. The Committee agreed to recommend that there would be no increase to football pitch hire in 2024/25. During discussions with the cricket league, officers had been informed of the shortage of cricket pitches and that charges at Sol Joel were noticeably lower than charges at other sites. Councillors agreed to recommend that cricket charges for 2024/25 would be increased by 20%.