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Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



Monday, 20th January, 2025 at 6.00 pm

To members of the Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee - R Crouch, D Enright, J Aitman, D Edwards-Hughes, D Newcombe, J Robertshaw, R Smith and O Collins (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

Admission to Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Numbers of the public will be limited, with priority given to those who have registered to speak on an item on the agenda. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Committee Clerk derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk in advance.

Recording of Meetings

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings, please let the Deputy Town Clerk or Committee Clerk know before the start of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

Committee Members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Committee Clederek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting, stating the reason for absence.

Standing Order 30(d)(v) permits the appointment of substitute Councillors to a Committee whose role is replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Committee if ordinary Councillors of the Committee has confirmed to the Proper Officer **before** the meeting that they are unable to attend.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in any of the items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's code of conduct.

3. **Minutes** (Pages 4 - 9)

- a) To receive and consider the minutes of the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotments Minutes held on 11 November 2024;
- b) Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda (Questions on the progress any item).

4. Public Participation

The meeting will adjourn for this item

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of **five minutes** each during the period of puk participation, in line with Standing Order 42. Matters raised shall relate to the following items on t agenda.

5. Finance Report (Pages 10 - 25)

To receive and consider the report of the R.F.O concerning the financial position of items under the remit of this Committee in 2024/25 and the upcoming 2025/26 period.

Public Halls

6. **Public Halls Report** (Pages 26 - 30)

To receive and consider the report of the Venue & Events Officer.

7. Corn Exchange Business Report (Pages 31 - 36)

To receive and consider the report of the Deputy Venue & Events Officer.

8. Public Halls Business Plan Review

To receive and consider the report of the Venue & Events Officer.

To Follow

Cemeteries & Closed Churchyards

9. Cemetery Regulations

To receive and consider the report of the Operations Manager.

To Follow

10. **Burial Fees** (Pages 37 - 39)

To receive and consider the report of the Operations Manager.

11. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider and if appropriate, to pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

12. Property & Legal Matters

To receive a confidential verbal update from the Town Clerk/CEO.

Town Clerk

TOWIT CICIK

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday, 11 November 2024

At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor R Crouch (Chair)

Councillors: D Enright J Robertshaw

D Edwards-Hughes R Smith

Officers: Adam Clapton Deputy Town Clerk

Derek Mackenzie Senior Administrative Officer &

Committee Clerk

Sharon Groth Town Clerk

Mark Lewis Head of Estates & Operations
Nigel Warner Responsible Financial Officer

Others: Six members of the public.

H620 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Collins & J Aitman.

H621 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D Edwards-Hughes declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13 by virtue of the CEO of the ICE centre being known to him as a fellow member of the West Oxfordshire Conservatives Association.

There were no other declarations from Members or Officers

H622 MINUTES

The minutes of the Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee meeting held on 16 September 2024 were received.

H495 – Members were notified that the cost of the Oak Monolith had risen from £850 to £975 in order to increase the thickness from 25mm to 75mm, this would mean greater longevity and potentially allow for plaques to be placed on both sides. All Members were in agreement with the increase in cost.

Resolved:

1. That, the minutes of the Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee meeting held on 16 September 2024 be approved as a correct record of the meetings and be signed by the Chair and,

2. That, the purchase of the Oak Monolith proceeds at a cost of £975.

H623 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned for this item.

The Committee received representation from a member of the Witney Allotment Association (WAA) concerning Agenda Item 11.

Members asked the Association member questions to gain further clarification regarding the positions of the Committee that were not filled, what the WAA constitution allowed for by way of calling an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, and how they would see the Association's running going forward.

The Committee reconvened.

H624 WITNEY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

With the permission of the Chair, this item was moved up the agenda so the members of public could hear the discussion and outcome.

The Committee considered the points raised by the members of the Witney Allotment Association (WAA) who were present along with a verbal update from Officers and the Chair, who was also the Town Council Representative for the WAA.

It was proposed by Councillor D Enright, and seconded by Councillor R Smith that a subsidised let of the Corn Exchange be agreed to allow for an AGM or EGM to be held by WAA. Members were unanimous in agreement.

Recommended:

- 1. That, the verbal updates be noted and,
- 2. That, a subsidised use of the Corn Exchange to the value of £157 be allowed for a meeting of the WAA subject to receipt of the necessary paperwork.

(All Members of the public left at 6:26pm)

H625 FINANCE REPORT: REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 AND DRAFT BASE REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2025/26

The Committee received and considered the report of the RFO concerning the base revenue budget, draft estimates on budget parameters for 2024/25 and a revenue budget summary.

For the benefit of Members, the RFO outlined the contents of the report and explained that although monitoring takes place throughout the year, this was the initial report of the Committee budget setting cycle and this would be refined ahead of the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee meeting later in month.

During this process, the Committee were advised the RFO scrutinises budget lines and looks at the inflationary rises. He also considered changes resulting from public sector pay increases and Employer National Insurance contributions. Due to uncertain energy prices, he suggested this budget line should be held at the same level as 2024/25.

Members received confirmation from the Head of Estates & Operations that the Corn Exchange Business Plan was working and that with the improved energy rating of the Burwell Hall following the boiler replacement, costs would continue to show saving in respect to energy unit use.

In response to a Members question, the RFO confirmed the decision to introduce Maglocks to the Corn Exchange was developing and therefore the potential £5,000 savings was not included in the budget.

The RFO tabled the Annual summary of the cost centres under the committees remit and further explained that costs relating to the activity of the works team were being directed to the individual cost centres to provide a greater understanding of their true cost.

Agreement of the draft revised base revenue budget for 2024/25 and the estimated base revenue budgets for 2025/26 was proposed by Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed by members unanimously.

Recommended:

- 1. That, the report be noted and,
- 2. That, the draft revised base revenue budget for 2024/25 and the estimated base revenue budgets for 2025/26, as detailed be agreed.

(Councillor D Enright left the meeting at 6:45pm)

H626 REVENUE GROWTH ITEMS, SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECTS, AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Committee received and considered the tabled report of the Responsible Financial Officer.

Members heard the majority of new Capital Items could be met from existing budgets however, there was a need to increase revenue to ensure that the maintenance of property remained at an agreeable level. Replacement lighting at the Corn Exchange was required to ensure that the Council worked towards it's Environmental & Climate Emergency aims.

The Committee were all in agreement with the reports proposals.

Recommended:

- 1. That, the report be noted and,
- 2. That, that the Revenue Growth and new Capital items be agreed by the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee.

H627 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26

The Committee received and considered the details of the proposed increase to Halls & Cemeteries costs from April 2025.

Members heard of the general 2% increase to most of the charges along with the greater proposed increase to limited Cemetery fees, the Committee felt it was necessary to ensure that the costs incurred by the Council were reflected in the fees charged to those using the services

however, it was also potentially necessary to provide some form of subsidy as the Council did with other fees it charged, such as sports pitches.

Members asked that Officers benchmark interment costs against like for like Councils as well as providing a detailed breakdown of the Council's costs for providing the various types of interment that it offers.

Recommended:

That, the matter be deferred to a meeting of Policy, Governance & Finance to allow Officers to provide further information.

(The Responsible Financial Officer left at 7:05pm)

H628 PUBLIC HALLS REPORT

The Committee received the report and verbal update of the Venue & Events Officer providing an update and further details of proposed capital expenditure.

The Committee received specifics of the proposals having earlier in the meeting been presented with the costs when they reviewed the capital cost items for 2025/26.

Members welcomed the details provided however, asked that additional information be provided by Officers along with detailed costings in respect of the changes to the website and replacement kitchen.

Members also asked that Officers contact West Oxfordshire District Council to confirm if any form of permission was required for the hanging of the flags at the side of the Corn Exchange.

The Committee was pleased to hear of the request from Witney & Abingdon College to host a charity stall outside the Corn Exchange to support adults with learning difficulties and wholly supported the idea.

Recommended:

- 1. That, the report and verbal updates be noted and,
- 2. That, Officers explore further the cost of the change to website provider and,
- 3. That, Flags and flagpoles for the alleyway be procured at a cost of £504 subject to due diligence being carried out in respect to the need for planning permission and,
- 4. That, a replacement internal wooden framed noticeboard be purchased up to a cost of £200 and
- 5. That, two new noticeboards for the front of the Corn Exchange be agreed up to a cost of £1,000 and,
- 6. That, Officers explore further the options for a replacement kitchen and for the costs to be added to the Business Plan along with details of potential offerings and profits and,
- 7. That, these recommendations, some for 2025-26 be subject to approval of the Policy Governance and Finance Committee and,
- 8. That, the Public Halls cancellation policy be readopted and reviewed in 12 months and,
- 9. That, the request received from Witney & Abingdon College to host a charity stall outside the Corn Exchange be agreed.

(Councillor D Edwards-Hughes left the meeting at 7:23pm – The meeting adjourned due to being inquorate till 7:25pm when he returned)

H629 CORN EXCHANGE BUSINESS REPORT

The Committee received and considered the report along with a verbal update from the Deputy Venue & Events Officer (DVEO) concerning the recent and upcoming events in the public halls.

Members were reminded of the Advent Fayre which required their assistance so as to be able to run effectively. All Members acknowledged the importance of the free event to the children of Witney.

Resolved:

That, the report be noted.

H630 CLOSED CHURCHYARDS & ST MARY'S CHURCH UPDATES

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chair and Officers following their meeting with church representatives.

Holy Trinity - Woodgreen

Members heard that tree works were due to be carried out as planned. It was also noted that the church grounds were an excellent wildflower area and that there had been compliments to this effect.

St Marys - Church Green

The Committee heard the churchyard would soon be cleared and tidied by members working under the Probation Service. Also, that the Town Council had recently completed the repairs to the church walls.

Members expressed their disappointment with the repairs of the footpath/right of way which had been carried out by Oxfordshire County Council. Officers advised that they had requested an update on the works from OCC however, it had not been forthcoming, they would continue to follow this through. It was suggested that details be forwarded to Councillor Enright so that he may also follow up as a County Councillor.

Resolved:

- 1. That, the verbal updates be noted and,
- 2. That, Officers forward details to Councillor Enright so that he could follow up progress of the pathway with OCC Highways.

H631 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That in accordance with section (1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press,

be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

H632 WITNEY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Members considered further the earlier discussions regarding the issue being experienced by the Witney Allotment Association.

Following a proposal Members agreed that an AGM was necessary in order for the Association to move forward. The Council was supportive of the WAA separating into two separate associations.

Resolved:

That, the Town Clerk and Chair meet with the remaining representative of the WAA Committee to ask that the AGM to called.

H633 PROPERTY MATTERS

The Committee received the confidential report of the Town Clerk/CEO which concerned one of the Councils building assets.

Members also received a verbal summary of the history of the lease arrangements along with a verbal update from the Head of Estates & Operation regarding the current condition of the fabric of the building.

The Committee welcomed the report and praised the Town Clerk on the comprehensive detail provided.

Members were unanimous in agreement with the options proposed being further explored by the Town Clerk, however the need for repairs to the roof should not wait and as funds allowed, these repairs should be made.

Recommended:

- 1. That, the confidential report be noted and,
- 2. That, on receipt of updated quotes, the Council funds the repair of the roof at Langdale Hall from earmarked reserves (366) as a priority and,
- 3. That, future lease and building options are further explored and fully costed before being brought back to the next meeting of the Committee on 20 January 2025.

The meeting closed at: 7.58 pm

Chair

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Finance Report

Meeting Date: 20 January 2025

Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer

Should Members have any queries about this report advance notice would be appreciated, in writing, by 12 noon on Monday 20 January to allow for a full response at the meeting.

Background

Detailed income and expenditure statements for budgets which are the responsibility of this committee are enclosed. The period to which this report relates is 1 April to 30 November 2024.

Current Situation

For the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotments Committee the following cost centres are in place and these are shown in the report. Cost centres, comprising three digits, typically represent a discrete service entity, to which income and expenditure is allocated against previously agreed revenue budgets.

Cost centre	Service
102	Langdale Hall
103	Bars
104	Corn Exchange
105	Burwell Hall
106	Madley Park Community Centre
301	Tower Hill Cemetery
302	Windrush Cemetery
303	Closed churchyards – St Mary's/ Holy Trinity
305	Allotments

Within each cost centre income and expenditure is then allocated to a four-digit nominal ledger code; these codes are common across the cost centres. Nominal ledger codes further define the costs associated with the cost centre and correspond to a specific type of account, such as materials or staffing costs. Codes commencing with "1" are income codes; codes commencing with "4" are expenditure codes.

The Council agreed both the revised estimates for 2024-25 and the estimates for 2025-26 at its meeting of 6 January 2025. These are shown in the report.

The format of this report is as follows: the first two columns relate to the original budget from 2023/24 against the actual figures for last year. The middle columns relate to the current year's original budget, actual expenditure year to date, the projected budget to 31st March 2025. The right-hand columns relate to the draft budget for 2025/26.

REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY

A full review of the budgetary position was undertaken during the budget cycle. Most areas of interest were raised at the last meeting of this committee and the subsequent Policy Governance and Finance Committee and full Council meetings. The RFO would refer members to the finance/ budget reports which were approved at those meetings for further details.

However there are a number of points it is worth making:

- 1. Current year budget: In terms of the report presented at this meeting, the current year (2024/25) budget is that which was projected when the estimates were revised and agreed by the Council at its meeting on 6 January 2025. It should be noted that the revised estimates were produced by your officers in the autumn of 2024. This means that, with the year-end (31 March 2025) approaching, there will be some cases where the actual spend to date exceeds the revised estimates. Conversely there will be other lines where actuals will be year-end not reach the revised estimate figure and overall the impact on budget should be broadly when the year-end accounts are produced.
- 2. The actual year to date figures are for the period April to November 2024, subject to the comments in relation to recharges of overheads (point 4, below).
- 3. With regard to the 1863 Bar/ Café, there have been some statements in the public domain which have misstated the net cost of the service. For clarity, the accounts show the combined net revenue expenditure for cost centre 103 (Bar/ Café) is as follows:

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2023/24 actual £54,143 (£1,038 per week)
2024/25 revised budget £34,029 (£653 per week).
2025/26 estimate £28,556 (£548 per week)
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4. The treatment of overheads was previously reported to Members. During the final stage of the budget process all central support and works overheads were removed from the service cost centres. There was no impact on the Council's overall budget.

The current position is:

- i. Central support overheads (nominal ledger codes 4892 and 4893) have been allocated in the current year to 30 November 2024. Estimates are now shown for the revised 2024-25 budget and the 2025-26 budget.
- ii. Works overheads (nominal ledger codes 4888, 4890 and 4899) have been allocated in the current year to 30 September 2024. Revised estimates for 2024-25 and estimates for 2025-26 are not yet allocated. The intention is that these will subsequently be allocated to service cost centres to reflect more accurately where the overhead is being incurred based on the current year. As usual there is no impact on the Council's overall budget the size of the overhead remains the same, it is simply how it is allocated. Unfortunately, this means that the overall total expenditure for these two columns should be treated with caution as it does not include these overheads.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality no implications directly resulting from this report.
- b) Biodiversity no implications directly resulting from this report.
- c) Crime & Disorder no implications directly resulting from this report.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency no implications directly resulting from this report.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The provision of regular financial reports is part of the Council's risk management system.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates. Social value is no quantified in the financial reports but clearly the creation of social value is dependent on setting adequate budgets to meet the Council's objectives.

Financial implications

This report forms part of the Council's due diligence and a process in line with its Financial Regulations. The financial implications are detailed above and also in the attached appendices.

This report forms part of the Council's mechanisms for budgetary control, as it enables income and expenditure incurred to be reviewed and to be compared with the Council's budgets.

Recommendations

Members are invited to approve the report and the management accounts of the Committee's services to 30 November 2024.

16/01/2025 **WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL 2024-25** 15:29

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 8)

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Note: Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee 20 January 2025 - Finance Report to 30 November 2024

		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26	
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward	
Halls,	Cemeteries & Allotments										
<u>102</u>	LANGDALE HALL										
1050	RENT RECEIVED	20,302	20,677	26,007	19,485	25,979	0	25,979	0	0	
1052	EXPENSES RECOVERED	200	205	171	91	360	0	370	0	0	
1060	INSURANCE RECOVERED	650	728	764	0	1,934	0	950	0	0	
	Total Income	21,152	21,610	26,942	19,575	28,273	0	27,299	0	0	
4021	TELEPHONE/FAX	200	230	171	185	303	0	310	0	0	
4025	INSURANCE	750	818	928	765	928	0	950	0	0	
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	1,000	1,345	3,000	0	3,000	0	1,000	0	0	
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	1,000	340	1,000	0	500	0	1,000	0	0	
4048	ENG.INSPEC.(VATABLE)	450	345	368	575	575	0	585	0	0	
4059	OTHER PROF FEES	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	1,039	997	0	0	0	0	0	
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	95	67	0	0	0	0	0	
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	4,492	4,105	4,607	2,966	4,550	0	5,338	0	0	A
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	1,294	1,622	1,304	1,021	1,381	0	1,410	0	0	Appendix
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	1,057	542	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	103	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	110	188	189	244	0	0	0	0	0	
	Overhead Expenditure	11,456	9,597	13,701	6,819	11,237	0	11,593	0	0	
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	9,696	12,012	13,241	12,756	17,036		15,706			
103	BAR/ CAFE										

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL 2024-25

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Note: Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee 20 January 2025 - Finance Report to 30 November 2024

		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
1000	C/EX. 1863 - SALES ALCOHOL	22,500	37,255	34,736	20,997	35,100	0	37,500	0	0
1001	C/EX. 1863 SALES - FOOD	20,000	27,405	28,660	24,037	34,000	0	35,700	0	0
1002	C/EX. 1863 BAR HIRE CHARGE	750	1,067	1,430	700	1,033	0	1,055	0	0
1003	C/EX. 1863 SALES - SOFT DRINKS	0	7,537	7,064	6,657	8,600	0	9,030	0	0
1009	CORN EX.1863 CAFE- HOT DRINKS	39,000	70,391	74,800	66,515	91,300	0	96,000	0	0
1014	EVENTS INCOME	0	0	0	129	0	0	0	0	0
1090	BURWELL HALL BAR - ALCOHOL	6,000	3,819	6,600	1,413	2,600	0	3,200	0	0
1091	BURWELL HALL BAR HIRE CHARGE	150	0	150	-50	0	0	153	0	0
	Total Income	88,400	147,473	153,440	120,399	172,633	0	182,638	0	0
3000	BAR PURCHASES - DRINK	11,500	22,782	21,000	17,697	21,300	0	22,875	0	0
3001	BAR PURCHASES - FOOD	10,000	18,970	17,196	13,424	20,400	0	21,420	0	0
3009	CAFE PURCHASES - HOT BEVERAGES	14,000	17,750	19,448	16,209	22,600	0	24,000	0	0
3010	PROMOTIONS	0	1,013	0	2,599	4,200	0	4,450	0	0
	Direct Expenditure	35,500	60,516	57,644	49,929	68,500	0	72,745	0	0
4001	SALARIES	66,953	113,788	105,307	78,664	112,400	0	107,000	0	0
4002	ER'S NIC	7,356	5,406	4,566	4,635	6,510	0	9,900	0	0
4003	ER'S SUPERANN	3,459	5,761	5,124	4,409	6,570	0	7,000	0	0
4007	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	750	180	750	21	200	0	500	0	0
4016	CLEANING MATERIALS	300	66	100	68	100	0	100	0	0
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	750	495	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
4042	EQUIPMENT INC. FURNITURE	5,000	6,440	5,000	4,196	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
4059	OTHER PROF FEES	700	600	700	450	700	0	700	0	0
4099	MISCELLANEOUS	1,000	973	1,000	262	250	0	1,000	0	0

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16/01/2025

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 8)

Note: Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee 20 January 2025 - Finance Report to 30 November 2024

		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Next Year 2025-26		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	11,229	5,155	4,608	5,088	4,551	0	5,339	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	3,235	1,798	1,304	1,084	1,381	0	1,410	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	0	436	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	100,732	141,099	128,959	98,876	138,162	0	138,449	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(47,832)	(54,143)	(33,163)	(28,407)	(34,029)		(28,556)		
104	CORN EXCHANGE									
1007	CORN EXCHNGE LETTING	38,500	62,539	57,314	44,268	66,000	0	68,000	0	0
1014	EVENTS INCOME	4,000	12,817	13,609	5,123	7,625	0	13,881	0	0
1015	TEA DANCE INCOME	1,500	2,114	2,400	1,685	2,400	0	2,400	0	0
1017	CORN EXCHANGE WEDDING LETTING	500	859	1,353	958	1,400	0	1,400	0	0
1052	EXPENSES RECOVERED	0	2,070	3,479	0	700	0	750	0	0
	Total Income	44,500	80,399	78,155	52,033	78,125	0	86,431	0	0
1001	SALARIES	61,962	53,136	78,384	48,627	71,249	0	65,544	0	0
1002	ER'S NIC	4,395	4,267	5,927	4,245	6,291	0	7,342	0	0
4003	ER'S SUPERANN	9,387	10,140	12,971	7,954	11,258	0	9,811	0	0
4007	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	300	285	300	107	200	0	300	0	0
4008	TRAINING	1,000	993	1,000	3,362	3,000	0	1,020	0	0
4011	RATES	4,500	1,166	1,244	1,026	1,410	0	3,167	0	0
4012	WATER RATES	1,100	3,231	2,700	3,186	5,460	0	5,075	0	0
4014	ELECTRICITY	36,000	20,219	16,792	7,067	13,850	0	12,000	0	0
4015	GAS	26,250	14,495	8,987	3,332	8,525	0	8,000	0	0
4016	CLEANING MATERIALS	3,000	1,804	2,000	2,003	2,000	0	2,040	0	0

Continued on next page

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Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 8)

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Note: Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee 20 January 2025 - Finance Report to 30 November 2024

		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4017	CONTRACT CLEAN/WASTE	3,500	3,280	3,735	336	2,500	0	3,735	0	0
4018	PHOTOCOPIER COSTS	50	71	50	122	185	0	190	0	0
4021	TELEPHONE/FAX	900	1,487	960	884	1,260	0	1,260	0	0
4025	INSURANCE	850	937	1,126	930	930	0	950	0	0
4028	I.T.	1,400	2,384	1,400	1,369	1,700	0	1,500	0	0
4030	RECRUITMENT ADVT'G	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
4032	PUBLICITY	3,000	1,995	3,000	741	3,000	0	3,000	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	8,000	11,496	8,000	8,383	12,000	0	12,000	0	0
4037	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	927	0	0	0	0	0
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	4,000	12,194	4,000	3,076	3,850	0	4,000	0	0
4042	EQUIPMENT INC. FURNITURE	2,000	1,818	2,000	1,860	2,000	0	2,000	0	0
4043	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPT	150	181	150	20	75	0	150	0	0
4045	LICENCES	4,000	2,208	2,500	2,062	2,837	0	2,900	0	0
4048	ENG.INSPEC.(VATABLE)	350	337	373	364	364	0	370	0	0
4064	HEALTH & SAFETY	100	288	100	75	100	0	100	0	0
4141	EVENTS	10,000	13,825	10,000	8,113	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
4142	TEA DANCE COSTS	6,000	5,145	6,535	4,353	6,535	0	6,700	0	0
4144	FILM CLUB	0	6,150	4,481	3,002	4,500	0	4,600	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	3,856	2,309	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	354	184	0	0	0	0	0
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	22,459	10,311	9,215	10,181	9,102	0	10,677	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	6,470	3,597	2,607	2,046	2,760	0	2,820	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	3,922	2,371	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	384	274	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	410	900	703	701	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	226,839	190,984	196,450	132,948	186,941	0	182,251	0	0
	104 Net Income over Expenditure	-182,339	-110,585	-118,295	-80,914	-108,816	0	-95,820	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	10,632	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(182,339)	(99,954)	(118,295)	(80,914)	(108,816)		(95,820)		
<u>105</u>	BURWELL HALL									
1005	BURWELL HALL LETTING	22,500	26,421	30,575	19,410	30,575	0	31,200	0	0
1052	EXPENSES RECOVERED	0	1,072	2,189	0	700	0	750	0	0
	Total Income	22,500	27,492	32,764	19,410	31,275	0	31,950	0	0
4001	SALARIES	41,308	44,900	52,256	38,879	63,451	0	46,804	0	0
4002	ER'S NIC	2,930	3,574	3,951	3,461	5,498	0	4,925	0	0
4003	ER'S SUPERANN	6,258	7,519	8,647	5,903	9,566	0	5,744	0	0
4007	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	300	7	300	0	150	0	300	0	0
4008	TRAINING	500	0	500	0	250	0	500	0	0
4011	RATES	3,000	786	839	693	864	0	2,150	0	0
4012	WATER RATES	1,200	371	420	787	860	0	825	0	0
4014	ELECTRICITY	11,920	3,401	3,362	1,478	2,450	0	2,500	0	0
4015	GAS	15,000	7,088	8,567	306	3,240	0	4,146	0	0
4016	CLEANING MATERIALS	2,000	1,839	2,000	1,539	2,000	0	2,050	0	0
4017	CONTRACT CLEAN/WASTE	2,200	1,980	1,225	1,855	2,750	0	2,800	0	0
4021	TELEPHONE/FAX	300	235	268	149	255	0	260	0	0
4025	INSURANCE	550	585	592	437	437	0	445	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Next Year 2025-26		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4028	I.T.	1,000	900	1,000	970	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
4032	PUBLICITY	1,000	0	1,000	330	500	0	1,000	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	5,000	5,995	5,000	4,382	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	2,100	1,696	2,100	241	1,800	0	1,825	0	0
4042	EQUIPMENT INC. FURNITURE	1,500	300	1,500	7	500	0	1,500	0	0
4045	LICENCES	750	447	477	475	475	0	485	0	0
4048	ENG.INSPEC.(VATABLE)	325	319	340	1,790	1,790	0	1,825	0	0
4064	HEALTH & SAFETY	0	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4099	MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	81	200	0	200	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	19,324	1,550	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	1,773	118	0	0	0	0	0
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	4,492	4,105	4,608	2,966	4,551	0	5,339	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	1,294	1,622	1,304	1,021	1,381	0	1,410	0	0
4894	GROUNDS STAFF RECHARGE	0	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4895	GROUNDS O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	19,654	13,425	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	1,924	1,360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	2,054	4,380	3,524	395	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	128,559	107,068	124,877	69,813	108,968	0	93,033	0	0
	105 Net Income over Expenditure	-106,059	-79,576	-92,113	-50,403	-77,693	0	-61,083	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	1,940	1,940	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(106,059)	(79,576)	(92,113)	(48,463)	(75,753)		(61,083)		
<u>106</u>	MADLEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE									

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25	Next Year 2025-26			
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
1052	EXPENSES RECOVERED	0	0	0	1,204	0	0	0	0	0
1060	INSURANCE RECOVERED	440	494	526	0	519	0	530	0	0
	Total Income	440	494	526	1,204	519	0	530	0	0
4025	INSURANCE	440	494	526	519	519	0	530	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	7,617	7,617	0	0	0	0
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	1,856	0	0	0	0	0
4048	ENG.INSPEC.(VATABLE)	700	0	747	0	747	0	760	0	0
4059	OTHER PROF FEES	1,500	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	898	821	921	590	910	0	1,067	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	259	324	261	142	276	0	282	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	3,815	1,654	3,975	10,724	11,569	0	4,140	0	0
	106 Net Income over Expenditure	-3,375	-1,160	-3,449	-9,520	-11,050	0	-3,610	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	7,617	7,617	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,375)	(1,160)	(3,449)	(1,903)	(3,433)		(3,610)		
<u>301</u>	TOWER HILL CEMETERY									
1050	RENT RECEIVED	13,620	13,620	13,260	10,215	13,620	0	13,620	0	0
1060	INSURANCE RECOVERED	225	249	194	0	194	0	200	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Next Year 2025-26		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
109	9 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0	850	0	122	244	0	0	0	0
110	0 BURIAL FEES	4,000	7,627	9,283	5,206	8,700	0	8,850	0	0
110	1 GRANT OF RIGHTS	1,000	1,387	2,828	678	1,200	0	1,200	0	0
110	2 INTERMENT OF ASHES	9,000	10,754	12,324	13,871	17,600	0	13,000	0	0
110	5 MEMORIAL FEES	3,500	5,285	5,692	4,697	6,500	0	6,500	0	0
110	6 MEMORIAL PLAQUES	330	165	323	308	500	0	500	0	0
110	8 CHAPEL FEES	214	363	384	379	450	0	450	0	0
	Total Income	31,889	40,299	44,288	35,475	49,008	0	44,320	0	0
400	1 SALARIES	12,541	11,496	14,639	9,748	14,621	0	15,602	0	0
400	2 ER'S NIC	1,103	1,002	1,193	871	1,306	0	1,915	0	0
400	3 ER'S SUPERANN	2,722	2,521	3,177	2,115	3,173	0	3,385	0	0
401	1 RATES	4,250	3,792	4,046	3,034	3,792	0	3,850	0	0
401	2 WATER RATES	250	540	365	795	800	0	850	0	0
401	4 ELECTRICITY	1,000	1,160	1,118	543	1,118	0	900	0	0
401	6 CLEANING MATERIALS	30	0	30	0	15	0	30	0	0
401	7 CONTRACT CLEAN/WASTE	1,000	1,350	1,000	1,100	1,300	0	1,500	0	0
402	5 INSURANCE	225	249	435	0	435	0	445	0	0
403	6 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	6,000	500	6,000	791	2,000	0	6,000	0	0
403	8 OTHER MAINTENANCE	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
404	1 EQUIPMENT HIRE	0	125	0	0	0	0	400	0	0
404	2 EQUIPMENT INC. FURNITURE	100	735	100	46	100	0	100	0	0
405	9 OTHER PROF FEES	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
406	4 HEALTH & SAFETY	100	0	100	0	50	0	102	0	0
409	9 MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	172	200	0	200	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4110	SUBSIDIZED LETTINGS	200	0	200	0	100	0	200	0	0
4350	PLAQUES PURCHASED	300	263	291	157	300	0	605	0	0
4355	MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE	2,500	905	2,500	980	1,500	0	2,000	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	80,770	44,178	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	10,846	3,598	0	0	0	0	0
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	13,475	12,316	13,823	8,900	13,653	0	16,017	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	3,882	4,867	3,911	3,066	4,141	0	4,230	0	0
4894	GROUNDS STAFF RECHARGE	8,416	3,495	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4895	GROUNDS O'HEAD RECHARGE	3,108	3,439	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	73,017	63,818	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	7,146	6,405	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	7,630	13,070	13,092	12,909	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	148,995	132,116	157,636	93,003	48,604	0	58,431	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(117,106)	(91,817)	(113,348)	(57,528)	404		(14,111)		
302	WINDRUSH CEMETERY									
1100	BURIAL FEES	15,000	19,066	22,338	14,229	22,400	0	22,785	0	0
1101	GRANT OF RIGHTS	20,000	23,204	27,091	11,269	25,000	0	27,633	0	0
1102	INTERMENT OF ASHES	5,500	4,781	5,288	2,643	4,000	0	5,394	0	0
1105	MEMORIAL FEES	6,000	8,634	7,448	3,913	7,500	0	7,597	0	0
1106	MEMORIAL PLAQUES	0	0	0	121	200	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	46,500	55,684	62,165	32,174	59,100	0	63,409	0	0
4001	SALARIES	12,541	11,496	14,639	9,748	14,621	0	14,932	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24	Current Year 2024-25				Next Year 2025-26		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4002	ER'S NIC	1,103	1,002	1,193	871	1,306	0	1,217	0	0
4003	ER'S SUPERANN	2,721	2,521	3,177	2,115	3,173	0	3,241	0	0
4011	RATES	6,050	7,984	8,519	6,388	7,984	0	8,689	0	0
4012	WATER RATES	300	191	237	318	300	0	242	0	0
4014	ELECTRICITY	4,000	3,620	3,532	1,675	3,532	0	2,750	0	0
4016	CLEANING MATERIALS	30	0	30	0	0	0	31	0	0
4017	CONTRACT CLEAN/WASTE	1,000	952	777	956	1,600	0	793	0	0
4021	TELEPHONE/FAX	300	21	268	0	100	0	273	0	0
4025	INSURANCE	120	125	127	131	131	0	130	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	2,000	682	2,000	7,536	8,500	0	2,040	0	0
4037	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	500	379	500	584	800	0	510	0	0
4038	OTHER MAINTENANCE	1,500	985	1,500	478	1,000	0	1,530	0	0
4042	EQUIPMENT INC. FURNITURE	1,500	1,018	1,500	54	500	0	1,530	0	0
4059	OTHER PROF FEES	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,020	0	0
4064	HEALTH & SAFETY	100	0	100	0	0	0	102	0	0
4099	MISCELLANEOUS	0	850	0	204	200	0	0	0	0
4350	PLAQUES PURCHASED	500	0	100	68	100	0	102	0	0
4355	MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE	2,000	1,133	2,000	1,085	1,500	0	1,790	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	138,044	35,547	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	16,101	2,674	0	0	0	0	0
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	13,475	12,316	13,823	8,900	13,653	0	16,017	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	3,882	4,867	3,911	3,066	4,141	0	4,230	0	0
4894	GROUNDS STAFF RECHARGE	8,416	2,611	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4895	GROUNDS O'HEAD RECHARGE	3,108	1,631	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24		Current Ye	ar 2024-25		Nex	t Year 2025	-26
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	131,269	89,914	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	12,848	9,641	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	13,718	23,375	23,539	10,995	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	223,981	177,313	236,617	93,394	64,141	0	61,169	0	0
	302 Net Income over Expenditure	-177,481	-121,629	-174,452	-61,220	-5,041	0	2,240	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	6,215	6,215	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(177,481)	(121,629)	(174,452)	(55,005)	1,174		2,240		
<u>303</u>	CLOSED CH'YARDS ST MARYS/HOLY									
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	11,000	4,925	16,000	31,438	36,438	0	11,000	0	0
4040	ARBORICULTURE	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
4059	OTHER PROF FEES	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	13,000	4,925	18,000	31,438	37,438	0	13,000	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	31,060	31,060	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(13,000)	(4,925)	(18,000)	(378)	(6,378)		(13,000)		
<u>305</u>	ALLOTMENTS									
4013	RENT PAID	125	120	125	-125	125	0	125	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	500	5,000	500	775	1,500	0	1,600	0	0
4037	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	500	0	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
4040	ARBORICULTURE	0	0	0	900	0	0	0	0	0
4888	O/S STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	1,168	2,331	0	0	0	0	0
4890	O/S O'HEAD RECHARGE	0	0	107	193	0	0	0	0	0

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		Last Year	2023-24	Current Year 2024-25			Next Year 2025-26			
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4892	C/S STAFF RCHG	3,369	3,078	3,456	2,230	3,413	0	4,004	0	0
4893	C/S O'HEAD RCHG	971	974	978	768	1,036	0	1,058	0	0
4896	MTCE STAFF RECHARGE	1,188	693	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4897	MTCE O'HEAD RECHARGE	116	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4899	DEPOT REALLOCATION	124	213	213	912	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	6,893	10,149	7,047	7,984	6,574	0	7,287	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(6,893)	(10,149)	(7,047)	(7,984)	(6,574)		(7,287)		
Hall	s, Cemeteries & Allotments - Income	255,381	373,451	398,280	280,271	418,933	0	436,577	0	0
	Expenditure	899,770	835,423	944,906	594,928	682,134	0	642,098	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	-644,389	-461,972	-546,626	-314,657	-263,201	0	-205,521	0	0
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	10,632	0	46,832	46,832	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(644,389)	(451,340)	(546,626)	(267,825)	(216,369)		(205,521)		
	Total Budget Income	255,381	373,451	398,280	280,271	418,933	0	436,577	0	0
	Expenditure	899,770	835,423	944,906	594,928	682,134	0	642,098	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	-644,389	-461,972	-546,626	-314,657	-263,201	0	-205,521	0	0
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	10,632	0	46,832	46,832	0	0	0	0
			(451,340)	(546,626)	(267,825)	(216,369)		(205,521)		

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Public Halls Report

Meeting Date: Monday 20 January 2025

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer

Background

The Corn Exchange is a unique public building in the centre of Witney providing vital facilities for the community that includes arts and theatre, the 1863 Café, and halls for weddings, music events, and more offering charitable concessions. The building also acts as a point for refuge in the event of local disasters.

Current Situation

Local Film & Media Student - Los Banditos of Ducklington Lake

The Venue & Events Officer has been approached by a local student who has produced a film set in Witney, it's a full-length feature and the request is to support with a premiere on Friday 13th June. The request is for free use of the Main Hall to screen the film, with Witney & Abingdon College being invited to come and watch, as well as reaching out to the school's media students to see if they would like students to attend.

This could be a great opportunity for the Council to support local artists and promote local creativity with the recommendation being to host the event as a free entry event to encourage as many people as possible to attend with WTC taking money from any bar revenue on the night. The cost of a full subsidised let would be £160 Hall Hire and £120 for bar staff, the duty manager would accrue TOIL.

Link to Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyxCdkRrGlY

Corn Exchange Gallery Room Conferencing Equipment

Officers have worked with Cloudy IT to finalise the setup of the recently installed conferencing equipment in the Gallery Room. With their support the Officers will produce a user guide which will be available to all groups looking to hire the space for video conference meetings, or to simply use the projector and screen.

The project will be finished to a high standard and will be completed by the end of January, this will then allow all future WTC meetings to have the option to utilise the new equipment.

Corn Exchange Website

Officers held discussions with the current website provider, Rumbl Ltd, to understand the full potential of the website. The feedback from Rumbl is that the website can be refreshed and tailored to suit our needs. The current platform works well on the 'What's On' page but otherwise the site needs overhauling to get the most benefit for the Council.

Officers have made suggestions to improve the current set up, with The Old Fire Station in Oxford being discussed as a good base model to look to replicate on our platform. It uses the same website engine (WordPress) but looks a lot slicker than ours. The designer has taken this on board and will look to implement some visual changes to the site for approval before going live.

There are two additional key areas that were identified which would maximise the use the website and which have been identified to make a difference for staff. Firstly, the implementation of a digital Box Office where the key difference would be to do away with the need for Event Brite, enabling Officers to set up payment details, input performer account details and set the ticket split if that's what's agreed. There would be no real difference for a customer looking to book tickets, just a visual difference. The benefit for the Council is a saving on each event ticket purchased of 6.95% of the ticket value plus £0.59 per ticket.

Secondly, Officers have asked Rumbl to explore the options available with an integrated calendar on the website, the thinking is that this would allow people browsing at home the option to book a room at either hall without having to call and confirm.

This could potentially provide more hiring opportunity as these could be booked at any time if people had access to the website. It might be that full autonomy might not be an option, instead there could be an option to hold a date online, that information would come through to bookings staff and we can then contact the person who has made the enquiry to support with their request. This would need to align with the new overall booking system currently being researched.

By utilising and maximising the existing website it is the opinion of Officers that the current provider will be suitable and provide a good level of continuity for the Corn Exchange brand. Officers have a good working relationship so this could be a factor in continuing to use Rumbl. Any additional costs will be evaluated and presented to the Council before any decision is made and implemented.

Flags

The four flags and flagpoles which would be located down the side on the Corn Exchange have been researched and specifications have been sent to local printing companies to see if they can be competitive against online prices. Once purchased and installed they will be photographed and added to all visual marketing.

It is the hope of the Officers that by having this visual brand identity permanently on show, that this will increase both visibility of the hall as well as allowing hirers to promote their own events if they purchased their own flags which could be interchanged when required. All third-party flags would only be permitted under permission from Officers. Strict criteria will be provided as to the content and colours of the flags, as well as the restrictions surrounding timings, content etc.

Digital Notice Boards

The Venue & Events Officer has contacted the planning and conservation officer at WODC and has had initial feedback that this might not be permitted. Additional research and discussions are currently underway. At this point it has been indicated the most likely outcome would be to continue with the current set up, an idea was discussed for additional signage in the form of a digital noticeboard installed in one of the front windows of the hall, having spoken to users of the café and café staff, the Officers feels that this is not viable option as any display in the windows would restrict visibility both into and out of the hall.

Internal Notice Board

A new internal noticeboard has been purchased to be located at the bottom of the stairs in the Corn Exchange. This will be to replace the existing glass fronted notice board which looks dated and out of place in situ with the recent redecoration.

The old notice board may be able to be repurposed at a future date, potentially in the works team depot. Alternatively, it could either be sold or gifted to a local school or organisation which might require it.

The backboard colour has been chosen as lead grey to compliment the carpet on the stairs and in the Gallery Room.

Corn Exchange 1863 kitchen Facilities

It has been decided that the current facilities in the Main Kitchen of the Corn Exchange are continued to be used, the cost vs reward of a complete refurbishment doesn't adhere to current budgetary restrictions. All current kitchen equipment will be maintained to the highest standard, and when any item becomes unsuitable this will be replaced with upgraded and commercial specification items.

The first items that will need to be considered in due time are the glasswasher in the small kitchen and the oven in the larger kitchen.

There is an underlying issue with the current kitchen set up as the it was originally developed without the café in mind. When the kitchen was refurbished, the plan was to leave it as a blank slate for any hiring group to use as they see fit. The ideal scenario was to utilise induction hobs which could be brought in for an event then removed once it had finished. With the introduction of the café the kitchen use changed significantly with most of the usage coming from 1863 with only a couple of groups looking to use it. These groups usually use it

for drinks but there is still a cross over with the café and hirers. If the FSA were to inspect, it is difficult for the café staff to guarantee that the cleanliness is at the level where it needs to be if there are factors out of their control.

If the café is to continue as it is, and more importantly, to grow turnover, the preferred option would be to restrict third parties from using the kitchen, and develop the facilities. WTC staff would then be responsible for any kitchen requests made by any hiring group. Any increase in costs to provide this arrangement will be monitored.

It is recommended that any future kitchen development keeps this in mind as the initial reason for having the café and bar was for it to work as an ancillary function of the Corn Exchange, not to be the dominant business in the hall.

If WTC want to change the direction of the café, it is important to get the right decision made for both the customer and the future growth of the business.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality Providing a supportive environment for people to express themselves through creativity.
- b) Environment & Climate Emergency The continued running of the hall with additional winter running costs

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

No risks identified for this report.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

The social value of supporting a local enterprise (film) when considering subsidised hall hire for local film premiere

Financial implications

- The cost to WTC of hosting and staffing for screening of Los Banditos. 2 x bar staff plus duty manager. The cost of a subsidised let would be £160 for Hall Hire and additionally £120 for bar staff (4 hours).
- ➤ Purchase of new kitchen equipment as and when necessary, to be fully costed before purchasing.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and

- 1. That subsidised use of the Main Hall is granted for a local media student to premiere his film, to be advertised free entry to generate support. At a cost of £160 (Hall Hire) and £120 (Staffing).
- 2. Approve recommendation for third parties to be excluded from using the kitchen to enable hygiene standards and safe working practice to be maintained.

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Corn Exchange Business Report

Meeting Date: 20th January 2025

Contact Officer: Deputy Venue & Events Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the events that have taken place since the last committee meeting and report on forthcoming events in the diary.

Background

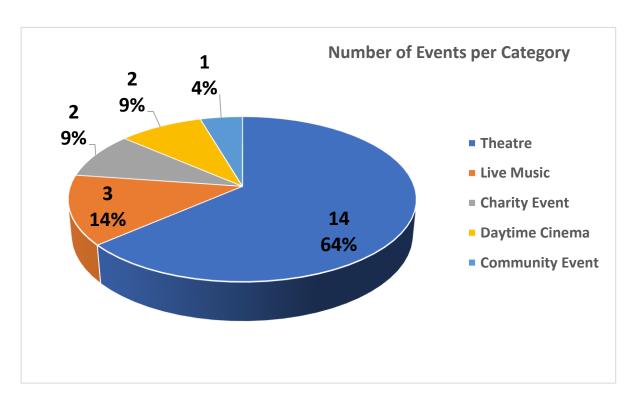
Witney Town Council has an obligation and objectives to provide an affordable, sustainable, inclusive and community arts facility that is valued and supported by the people of Witney and West Oxfordshire.

This includes providing availability to and encourage involvement from the entire community through offering a diverse range of music, arts and cultural events in the Corn Exchange.

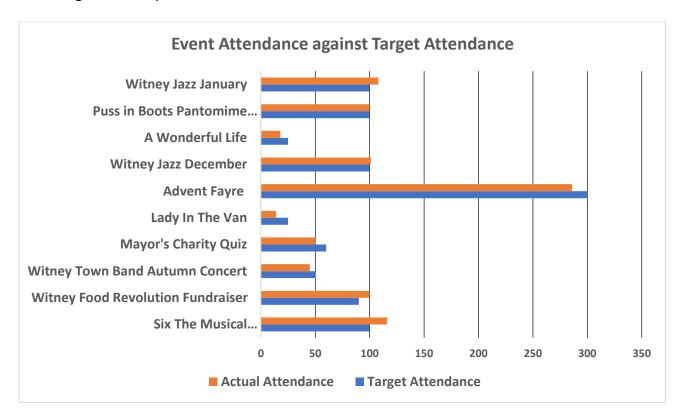
The Council will provide a professional, well-maintained, and run hireable space for private events including parties, weddings and conferences.

Current Situation

The graph below shows the number of events hosted by category, since the last report in November 2024.



The table below shows attendance figures for each event at The Corn Exchange since the last report, alongside a target attendance to show how each event is performing in line with officers' goals and expectations.



The figure shows that the events in November and December 2024 have been well attended, in relation to their target attendances. It shows that, some work needs to be done to increase the daytime cinema attendances slightly, to reach the target of 30 attendees per screening by the end of January.

Recent events

Wedding

At the end of November 2024, The Corn Exchange hosted a Wedding Ceremony and Reception, totalling over 100 guests. The Wedding was hugely successful, with much appreciation from the couple. Lots of work went into the planning and delivery of this event, specifically to ensure the bar requirements were met. Due to the nature of the event and number of guests in attendance, this was one of our most lucrative bar takings of the year.

Puss In Boots Pantomime – Buttercross Theatre Productions

The Corn Exchange ended 2024 with a run of "Puss in Boots" Pantomime shows by Buttercross Theatre Productions. We've seen heaps of praise on social media regarding this show and greatly appreciate the efforts put in by Buttercross Theatre to put on multiple successful show at The Corn Exchange throughout the year.

Six Teen Addition – Buttercross Theatre Productions

Buttercross Theatre also hosted a Teen Addition of "Six" in early November. These shows had a great turnout, and officers are glad that the venue can provide a space for young people to get into performing arts.

Advent Fayre

Officers would like to firstly thank the councillors who volunteered their time to help with Advent Fayre this year. Due to a wedding taking place in the hall the night before, the set up was a much bigger job this year, so we appreciate the support received.

This year's event ran in a very similar way to last year, with booking slots used to help control the flow of attendees. When planning this year, we reviewed last year's event analysis and decided we should increase the number of total attendees, and decrease the number of entrance slots, thus bringing the finish time of the event forward an hour. The tables below breakdown the structure of the booking slots, number of bookings and number of attendees from 2023 vs 2024. The total bookings increased by 81 from 317 to 398, however, total attendance only increased by 44 due to a lower percentage turnout this year. Whilst increasing the percentage turnout is a goal for next year, the data shows that this event remains popular amongst the families of Witney and can be deemed a success.

2023

Booking Slots	Booked	Attended	% Turnout		
10:00 - 12:00	40/40	31	78%		
10:30 - 12:30	40/40	29	73%		
11:00 - 13:00	40/40	30	75%		
11:30 - 13:30	40/40	30	75%		
Session total	160	120	75%		
Break					
14:30 -16:00	40/40	33	83%		
15:00- 17:00	40/40	30	75%		
15:30 - 17:30	40/40	29	73%		
16:00 – 18:00	37/40	30	81%		
Session total	157	122	78%		
Total	317	242	76%		

2024

Booking Slots	Booked	Attended	% Turnout		
10:00 - 12:00	66/66	49	74%		
10:30 - 12:30	66/66	48	73%		
11:00 - 13:00	66/66	51	77%		
Session total	199	148	74%		
Break					
14:00 -16:00	66	51	77%		
14:30 - 16:30	66	46	70%		
15:00 - 17:00	66	41	62%		
Session total	199	138	69%		
Total	398	286	72%		

Witney Town Band Autumn Concert

The Corn Exchange hosted Witney Town Band for an autumn concert in November, which welcomed around 50 attendees. The band were grateful for the support of Witney Town Council and were very happy with the venue, stating that they would love to stage another concert here in 2025.

Witney Food Revolution Fundraiser

Witney Food Revolution held a very successful fundraising event at The Corn Exchange in November. The event was very well attended with 100 attendees making the event a sell-out. The organisers were extremely thankful to the venue & events team for their support with this event.

Daytime Cinema

The attendance for the daytime cinema have plateaued over the last month, slightly below target. However, as this event is low cost to run, and provides community value to an audience of mainly elderly people, officers are keen to continue this event.

Upcoming Events

The Corn Exchange will continue to host the regular repeated in-house and third-party events below:

- Open Mic First Thursday Every Month
- Witney Jazz First Friday Every Month
- Tea Dance Every Wednesday
- Daytime Cinema Every other Tuesday
- Multiple Classes hosted by Buttercross Theatre Every Week
- Witney Speakers Club Every other Wednesday
- West Oxfordshire Art Society Lectures Once a month
- St Mary's Art Group Every Monday
- White Feather Spiritualist Church Once a month

Officers have been working hard programming the first half of 2025 and look forward to the following events that are now confirmed in the diary, with many more to be finalised in the coming weeks.

- Young Elton 21st February
- Decades Disco (50th Anniversary Event) 22nd February
- Wedding Singer BTP March
- Shadowing Hank 5th April
- What you will 19th April
- West End Magic 26th April
- Take @ That 31st May

Following suggested interest for Folk music in Witney, plans are developing for an indoor Folk festival featuring local and national Folk Artists. However, this is still in the early planning stages and a date is yet to be decided.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality The concept of equality when reporting on events is very important to the council, as it ensures fair and impartial coverage of all events and social groups within the community to reflect fairness, representation, and inclusivity.
- b) Biodiversity Officers focus on the broader context of their actions when organising event to maintain the Council's environmental and conservation efforts.

- c) Crime & Disorder Council policies and operational processes adhered to by Officers include a multi-faceted approach that integrates crowd control, prevention of criminal activity, security planning, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Officers assess the risks relating to events ensuring the necessary due diligence, reviews, sign off and monitoring is completed. Post event analysis data is sued to review opportunities for continuous improvement.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency Careful consideration is given to the environmental and climate impacts to reduce negative effects and promote sustainability. Many aspects of event planning by the Council include venue location, transportation, recycling, local produce, and energy usage. By incorporating sustainable practices into every stage of event planning, the Council aims to reduce the environmental impact, create a positive attendee experience, and help lead the way for more responsible event management in the future.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Managing risks for Council events is a crucial aspect of event planning and requires careful thought to ensure the safety and success of all events. The Council's risk management control measures for events covers legal considerations, safety protocols, insurance, and other key factors ensure these are delivered successfully.

Social Value

The Corn Exchange is registered as a warm space this winter, providing a cosy refuge from the cold, as well as a welcoming environment for socialising and engaging in conversation.

The Corn Exchange also hosts some events with a community focus.

- Open Mic Provides a supportive environment for beginner local musicians perform and allows more established local artists a chance to share original music.
- Daytime Cinema An affordable daytime activity, specifically an opportunity for pensioners to have a warm activity during the winter.

Financial implications

The Corn Exchange is operating and aligned with the 2024/2025 budget with no forecasted risk of annual overspend.

All events are evaluated from the planning stage to post event analysis to manage financial risk and maximise income.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report.

Week commencing	25th Nov	2nd Dec	9th Dec	16th Dec	23rd Dec	30th Dec	6th Jan	13th Jan	20th Jan	27th Jan		
CORN EX 2024 - 2025												
Hours booked	60.00	45.00	29.50	48.00	22.00	21.00	24.50	30.50	25.50	39.00	345.00	Total Hrs
Usage Percentage	71.43	53.57	35.12	57.14	26.19	25.00	29.17	36.31	30.36	46.43	41.07	Average %
SAME PERIOD 2023 - 2024												
CORN EXCHANGE												
Hours booked	44.50	60.00	43.00	24.00	19.00	26.00	14.00	45.00	26.25	36.00	337.73	Total Hrs
Usage Percentage	52.98	71.43	51.19	28.57	22.62	30.95	16.67	53.57	31.25	42.86	40.21	Average %
-												
GALLERY 2024 - 2025												
Hours booked	46.50	30.00	13.50	14.00	0.00	0.00	17.50	32.00	43.00	32.50	229.00	Total Hrs
Usage Percentage	55.36	35.71	16.07	16.67	0.00	0.00	20.83	38.10	51.19	38.69	27.26	Average %
	-	-			-		-	-			-	_
SAME PERIOD 2023 - 2024												
GALLERY												
Hours booked	29.00	44.25	10.00	3.00	4.00	6.00	21.75	55.00	15.75	20.25	209.00	Total Hrs
Usage Percentage	34.52	52.68	11.90	3.57	4.76	7.14	25.89	65.48	18.75	24.11	24.88	Average %
Burwell Hall	_											
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025												
	41.50	45.00	37.50	39.50	0.00	4.50	40.50	35.50	39.50	40.00	323.50	Total Hrs
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025	41.50 49.40	45.00 53.57	37.50 44.64	39.50 47.02	0.00	4.50 5.36	40.50 48.21	35.50 42.26	39.50 47.02	40.00 47.62	323.50 38.51	Total Hrs Average %
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025 Hours booked											ļ.	
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025 Hours booked											ļ.	
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025 Hours booked Usage Percentage			44.64			5.36	48.21				ļ.	
MAIN HALL 2024 - 2025 Hours booked Usage Percentage SAME PERIOD 2023 - 2024											ļ.	

^{*}based on x3 4-hour sessions per day; 12 hours total per day - 84 hours per week.

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Burial Fees

Meeting Date: 20th January 2025

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

It was proposed to the council at the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotments meeting on the 11th November 2024 that a more considerable rise in burial charges should be considered above the proposed 2% increase to ensure the Council was covering its burial costs. Councillors wanted to ensure these rises in burial charges were comparable to similar-sized town councils.

Current Situation

There are two areas to understand why it is important to ensure the council is covering its cost incurred from burials. There is the initial financial impact of the burial, but sometimes overlooked is the ongoing maintenance of that grave and the cemetery. There is a justifiable financial impact from this ongoing maintenance of the cemeteries as it falls under the general upkeep of Witney Town Council grounds and the cemeteries do act as recreation grounds. However, interment cost is directly linked to an individual who has made a decision to procure a parcel of land and has an expectation of service standards.

The Councils' current costs to excavate a double-depth grave at Windrush are estimated at around £1500 These costs are calculated from labour hours, fuel, materials and administration. The figure is a lower estimate of the true cost as most graves require additional labour, officer time and administration. The figures also do not equate to the deterioration, replacement and general maintenance of machinery and tools or the ongoing maintenance of a grave for a year after internment.

Witney Town Council's current charge for a double-depth grave with exclusive rights of burial is £1436, £791.50 for the interment costs and £644.50 for the EROB. Although not common there is no requirement to purchase the EROB, so an applicant can inter someone for £791.50 representing £708.50 loss for the council.

From a review of surrounding council burial charges, it appears there is no set fee, but the average works out to be around £1500 to inter someone at double depth with the ERBO purchase. This is still above Witney Town Council's agreed 2% increase for the 2025-26 year bringing interment and EROB charge to a total of £1465.

	Double Depth	Purchase of Exclusive rights of
		burial
South Oxford district council	£684	£412
Oxford City Council	£640	£1050

Abingdon on Thames Town Council	£900	included
Cotswold District council	£920	£1200
Aylesbury Town Council	£600	£1096

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- Equality an increase in charges could disproportionally effect more disadvantaged parts of the community.
- b) Biodiversity no direct impact from this report.
- c) Crime & Disorder no direct impact from this report.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency no direct impact from this report.

Risk

In decision making, Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

As outlined in the report, if Witney Town Council chooses to go ahead with its agreed 2% increase, each burial will represent a financial loss for the council. Although the proposed increased charge is minimal in relation to the total cost of a burial any larger increase above what is traditional could be viewed negatively.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- Increased charges are a means of maintaining financial sustainability for cemetery and burial services.
- To sustain the long-term viability of the Council's burial services, ensuring they remain available and of high quality.
- ➤ Higher burial charges will help towards the funding of the ongoing maintenance and improvement of Witney's cemeteries, ensuring that they are well-maintained, accessible, and respectful places for families to visit.

Financial implications

- ➤ Increasing all interment charges by 6.3% would help to cover interment costs and help bring charges in line with the surrounding area.
- ➤ Committing to the agreed 2% increase for EROB purchases.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. With the information provided in the report decide if a rise in burial charges for 2025-26 is required.

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF BURIAL CHARGES For Tower Hill and Windrush Cemetery Effective from 1st April 2025

All charges shown are for residents of Witney. Interments and Purchase of E	ROB are doubled in the case					
of non-residents		2024	1-25	Pro bas 2%	5-26 posed ed on but see tnote	2025-26 Proposed based on 6.3%
1. Interments - Charges apply to late cancellations.			£			
a) Foetal remains pre 24 weeks gestation		no (charge			
b) Baby in baby plot		£26	9.50	£27	5.00	£286.50
c) Under 18 yrs if using Child Size grave double depth		£39	9.00	£40	7.00	£424.00
d) Under 18 yrs Second burial in existing double depth Child Size grav	ve .	£25	1.50	£25	7.00	£267.50
e) Double depth grave Adult Size grave		£79	1.50	£80	7.00	£841.50
f) Second burial in existing double depth grave Adult Size grave		£50	3.00	£55	3.00	£535.00
g) Interment of ashes for person		£17	5.50	£17	9.00	£186.50
h) Burial in single depth grave at Tower Hill Cemetery		£58	32.50	£64	0.00	£619.00
2. Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) LEASE PERIOD: ADULT 30 YEARS: CHILD 90 YEARS						
a) Exclusive right of burial for a baby		£	218.50	£	251.00	
b) Exclusive right of burial for child under 18 years of age		£	321.50	£	370.00	
c) Exclusive right of burial for person over age of 18 years		£	644.50	£	741.00	
d) Exclusive right of burial for family ashes plot (Tower Hill)		£	423.00	£	486.00	
e) Exclusive right of burial for ashes plots		£	233.50	£	269.00	
3. Use of Tower Hill Chapel (Includes VAT)		£	129.00	£	132.00	
4. Memorials and Memorial Inscriptions						
a) For the right to erect an approved memorial - baby		£	68.00	£	69.00	
b) For the right to erect an approved memorial		£	196.00	£	200.00	
c) For the right to place a desk tablet 18" x 18" (Windrush Cemetery)		£	169.00	£	172.00	
d) For each additional inscription (to include moving of headstone if re	equired)	£	81.00	£	83.00	
e) For the replacement of an existing memorial		no (charge			
5 Managial Discuss on Wall of D. 1994 A. 1994 C. 1994						
5. Memorial Plaques on Wall of Remembrance at Tower Hill Cemetery		cac	\ FO	£31	00	
a) Reservation of plaque space on memorial wall		£30				
b) Small/large plaque including fixing		£60).50/£82.50	LOZ	/104	
6. Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial Deed		£42	2.50	£43	.00	
7. Charge for Late Arrival at Cemetery	Per hour, charged in 15 minute increa		66.50 s	£17	0.00	
8. Administration Charge for Burial Searches		£30).50	£31	.00	

Some of the charges listed above are subject to The Children's Funeral Fund for England and can be reclaimed

Some additional charges may apply for example graves over 28" wide, removal of spoil or cancellations.

We will advise if these apply