

REPORT OF THE PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL

Fringford Parish Council has received a report by the Parish Remuneration Panel making recommendations regarding the levels of parish remuneration.

The proposals of the Parish Remuneration Panel are as follows:

With the substantial building programme across Cherwell District, the bandings have been reviewed and five villages, Ambrosden, Caversfield, Gosford and Water Eaton and Upper Heyford have increased sufficiently to be moved from band 3 into band 2. Upper Heyford is currently going through a boundary review and may move back to band 3.

The agreed bandings are:

- Band 1 – Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington
- Band 2 – Adderbury, Ambrosden, Bloxham, Bodicote, Caversfield, Deddington, Gosford and Water Eaton, Hook Norton, Launton and Upper Heyford
- Band 3 – All remaining Parishes

That the levels of allowance for the financial year 2017/2018 should continue to be based on a proportion of the District Council rates which have been increased by 1.25% rounded either up or down whichever is closest to 12 equal payments.

- (a) that if parish councils wish to pay parish basic allowances, these be as set out below and paid to all parish council members according to the relevant band:-

Band 1 (Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington) - £840 per annum

Band 2 (Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote, Deddington, Hook Norton and Yarnton) - £420 per annum

Band 3 (All remaining Parishes) - £210 per annum

- (b) that if parish councils wish to pay an enhanced allowance to parish chairmen/town mayors this be based on a 50% increase in the recommended rates of the parish basic allowance so that the chairman/town mayor would receive a payment, according to the relevant band, as follows:-

Band 1 - £1,260 per annum

Band 2 - £630 per annum

Band 3 - £315 per annum

(c) that there be no increase in Travel and Subsistence Allowances

Bicycles	20p per mile
Motorcycles	24p per mile
Motor Vehicles	45p per mile
Electric or Similar Specialised Vehicles	£1.10 per journey
Breakfast Allowance	£6.02 per meal
Lunch Allowance	£8.31 per meal
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.29 per meal
Absence Overnight	£91.14
Absence Overnight in London or at a National Association of Local Council's Conference	£103.96

(d) that it would be appropriate for the payment of tolls and other parking charges to continue to be included in parish allowance schemes;

(e) that it would be appropriate for the occasions when parish members can travel by means other than by their own vehicle to continue to be defined in parish allowance schemes; and

(f) that it be noted that each parish council can determine the 'approved duties' for which it is legitimate to claim travel and subsistence allowances within the five categories specified in the 2003 Regulations.

Dependent Carers' Allowance

During the 2012/13 review, the panel suggested that an allowance would be appropriate for dependent carers. It has since come to light that the Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 do not allow for a Dependent Carers' Allowance. This must therefore be withdrawn.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) are currently seeking an amendment to the Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 to allow the provision of a dependent carers' allowance. This would give councillors on local councils the same right as councillors on a principal authority to be able to claim the dependent carers' allowance.

The Parish Council will consider the report at a future meeting and decide whether it wishes to use these recommendations, amend these recommendations to form a Members Allowance Scheme or, alternatively, decide not to adopt a Members Allowance Scheme.

A copy of the panel's report is available for inspection on request from the Clerk, or Chairman of the Parish Council, or from Democratic Services at Cherwell District Council (01295 221591).

Please note:

Fringford Parish Councillors have agreed not to take any of the allowances apart from mileage to external meetings.