

Durrington Town Council

Review of Fees and Charges: Comparison with Other Councils

Report to: Facilities and Amenities Committee

Meeting date: 22 October 2026

Report by: Joanne Tudor, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Date of report: October 2026

1. Purpose

To compare the Council's current hire charges, cemetery fees and allotment rents with those published by other councils and venues, to inform the annual review of fees and charges as part of the 2027-28 budget and precept process.

2. Background and method

The Council must review its fees and charges at least once a year and approve the schedule by resolution, even where no change is made. The internal auditor repeated this point in the 2026-27 interim report.

Comparisons were taken from charges published online in October 2026, mostly for 2025-26 or 2026-27. Many nearby councils and halls, including Bulford, Ludgershall, Shrewton, Netheravon, Figheldean, Larkhill, Pewsey and Market Lavington, do not publish their charges and ask hirers to contact them. The comparison therefore draws on the nearest councils and venues that do publish, together with similar Wiltshire towns.

Comparisons are approximate. Facilities, room sizes and what is included (kitchens, changing rooms, grave digging, water) vary, and a few venues quote prices including VAT.

3. Village Hall and Jubilee Pavilion hire

3.1 Current charges

Village Hall main hall £13.50 an hour for residents and £20.25 for non-residents. Robinson Room £6.50 and £9.75. Jubilee Pavilion £11.50 and £17.25. Badminton and pickleball £10.00 an hour. Local government £225 a day and commercial £350 a day or £175 a session.

3.2 Comparable hourly rates

- Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre: main or small hall £11.50 residents and charities, £13.50 non-residents, £19.00 commercial; smaller rooms £6.50 to £11.50.
- Downton Memorial Centre: hall £11.00 for local clubs and classes, £16.50 for private and commercial hire.
- Enford Village Hall (2026-27): £14 to £16 for residents and £16 to £18 for non-residents, higher at weekends.
- Wilton Town Council, Castle Meadow Pavilion: £10.80 including VAT.
- Amesbury Town Council, Bowman Centre: main hall £18 Monday to Thursday and £23 Friday to Sunday; community room £13 and £18.
- Salisbury City Council (2026-27): Bemerton Heath front rooms £16 weekdays and £20 weekends; Radnor Room £20, or £10 for charities.

- Warminster Civic Centre (2025-26): £19.20 community rate and £25.20 standard rate on weekdays, higher at weekends.
- Tidworth Civic Centre: Tedworth Hall £40; smaller rooms £10 to £15.

3.3 Findings

The resident rates for the Village Hall, Robinson Room and Pavilion sit in line with village and community halls nearby. They are below the town council venues at Amesbury, Warminster and Tidworth, which are larger civic buildings. The non-resident rates are close to Amesbury's and to the commercial rates charged elsewhere.

Several venues charge more at weekends. The Council does not, and could consider a weekend rate if weekend demand is strong.

Non-residents are charged one and a half times the resident rate. The notes on the hire charges schedule say that charges are doubled for non-residents, so the notes need correcting to match.

The special rates for regular community groups (Dads Sunday, RNID, Wind in the Willows, Durrington Day Centre and the Bakehouse group) are headed 2025 and should be confirmed as part of the same resolution.

4. Recreation Ground and football pitches

4.1 Current charges

Adult football with changing rooms and toilets £75 a hiring; junior football £50. Commercial use £250 a day. Fairs and circuses £100 for trading days and £50 for non-trading days. Community events using the Pavilion and Recreation Ground £125 a day or £75 a half day.

4.2 Comparable pitch charges

- Chippenham Town Council (2026-27), per match with changing rooms: senior £79, youth £45 to £48, mini soccer £32.
- Test Valley Borough Council (2026-27): adult £56, under-18s £28, with a changing room supplement of about £5.
- Kings Worthy Parish Council: adult match £86 to £103, junior £23 to £28.
- Amesbury Town Council does not publish pitch fees, but its 2023 minutes record that youth football training is free.

4.3 Findings

The adult rate of £75 is in line with the comparators. The junior rate of £50 is at the top of the range: it is two-thirds of the adult rate, where other councils charge juniors half the adult rate or less.

The schedule shows a Recreation Ground "standard charge" of £75 and £125 without saying what each covers. This should be clarified.

5. Cemetery fees

5.1 Current charges

The schedule sets a standard fee with a 50% reduction for residents of Durrington and Larkhill. In effect, non-residents pay double. Fees do not include grave digging. Main resident fees: adult interment £260, cremated remains £150, exclusive right of burial (ERB) for a single

grave for 75 years £370, headstone £180, additional inscription £60, ERB transfer £55. Interments of children aged 17 and under are free.

5.2 Comparable fees

- Devizes Town Council (2026-27), same structure as Durrington: adult interment £295 resident and £590 standard, digging extra at £525; ERB £530 resident for 40 years; headstone £320; additional inscription £110.
- Allington and Boscombe Parish Council (2026-27): burial £300 resident and £350 non-resident, digging extra; headstone £130; additional inscription £40.
- Tidworth Town Council (from May 2024): adult interment £275, digging extra; headstone £110.
- Amesbury Town Council (2024 schedule, the latest online): adult interment £367.50 parishioner and £577.50 non-parishioner; headstone £157.50; additional inscription £52.50.
- Marlborough Town Council (2026-27): adult interment £633; ERB £366 for 99 years; headstone £160.50; additional inscription and ERB transfer £64.50 each.
- Salisbury City Council (2026-27), digging included: adult interment £715 resident and £1,430 non-resident; ERB £1,020; headstone £135 to £196; additional inscription £67.
- Corsham Town Council (2026-27), digging included: adult interment £715 to £1,140 parishioner; ERB £460 to £675; headstone £200 to £275 plus VAT; transfer £30. Non-parishioners pay double.
- Wiltshire Council cemeteries (2026-27): adult interment £1,120; ERB £1,015 for 40 years; headstone £310; additional inscription £142.50; transfer £85. Non-residents pay double.

5.3 Findings

Interment fees are at the lower end. The resident fee of £260 is close to Tidworth, Devizes and Allington and Boscombe, which also exclude digging. Salisbury and Corsham are higher but include digging.

The exclusive right of burial is the clearest outlier. The Council grants 75 years for £370, about £5 a year, against £530 for 40 years at Devizes (about £13 a year) and £1,015 for 40 years at Wiltshire Council. Of the other councils that state a term, Devizes and Wiltshire Council grant 40 years and Marlborough 99 years.

The headstone fee for residents (£180) is mid-range. The standard fee (£360) is at the top of the range.

Charging non-residents double, through a standard fee with a 50% resident reduction, matches Devizes, Corsham and Wiltshire Council.

The Children's Funeral Fund for England reimburses burial authorities for their fees for children under 18. The Council could set a children's fee and claim it from the Fund, at no cost to families, rather than waiving it. Claims are made by the burial authority within six months of the funeral.

5.4 Proposed shorter term for the exclusive right of burial

Advice given at the national conference in October 2026 was that the exclusive right of burial should be granted for 25 to 30 years. A shorter term means families must renew the right,

which keeps them in contact with the Council. At present, contact is often lost over a 75-year term, and the Council is left looking after graves with no traceable owner.

A shorter term would also bring the price into line with other councils. At the current fees, a 30-year grant would cost residents about £12 a year (£370 over 30 years), close to Devizes at about £13 a year.

The following points would need to be settled:

- the change would apply to new grants only, and existing grants would run for their full term;
- the extension fee, currently £50 for every 5 years (£25 for residents), would need reviewing; at that rate, extending a 30-year grant to 75 years would cost residents £225;
- the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 allows grants and extensions up to a total of 100 years;
- expiry of the right does not allow the grave to be reused or the remains disturbed, so the benefit is in keeping contact and records up to date rather than freeing space;
- the Council would need a reminder system for renewals, with contact details held in line with its data protection policy; and
- the Cemetery Regulations, the fees schedule and the information given to funeral directors and families would need updating.

5.5 Corrections to the schedule

- The heading refers to "Regulation 15 of the Local Authorities' Act 1977". The correct reference is article 15 of the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977.
- Part 1 has no item 2 and there is no Part 3.
- Part 4, item 5 reads "not exceeding feet in height"; the height is missing.

6. Allotment rents

6.1 Current charges

Allotment charges are set a year ahead to follow the growing season. Standard plot £35 rent plus £12.50 water (£47.50 in total). Large plot £45 rent plus £25 water (£70 in total). Plot sizes are not recorded on the schedule.

6.2 Comparable rents

- Salisbury City Council (2026-27): £9.20 a rod, water included; £46 for 5 rods and £92 for 10 rods.
- Marlborough Town Council (2026-27): full plot £37.50, or £41 at the site with water.
- Corsham Town Council (2026-27): £45 under 100 square metres and £52 over, water included.
- Melksham Town Council: full plot £50, half plot £25.
- Ringwood Town Council (2026-27): single plot £38, double £69.50, residents.
- Andover Town Council (2025-26): about £73 for a 125 square metre plot, water extra at cost.
- Newbury Town Council (2025-26): £13 a rod, £65 for 5 rods.

6.3 Findings

The Council's rent alone is the lowest found, but the totals including water are in line with other Wiltshire councils, most of which include water in the rent.

Under section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950, allotments must be let at the rent a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay. In *R (Wood and Turley) v Leeds City Council* [2014] the High Court quashed a rent increase because this test was not put to councillors. Comparisons with other councils' rents, such as those in this report, are the usual evidence. Any rent change should be notified to tenants in line with the tenancy agreement.

A fair per-rod comparison is not possible without plot sizes. Recording the size of each plot would support future reviews.

7. Conclusion

The comparison supports the view that the Council's charges are about right for what it offers. Hall, pavilion and adult pitch charges, cemetery interment fees and allotment totals all fall within the range charged by comparable councils. The exceptions are the exclusive right of burial, where a shorter term is proposed, and the junior football rate, which is high relative to the adult rate.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- a) decides whether to hold hire charges for 2027-28 or apply an increase, and whether to introduce a weekend rate;
- b) considers recommending reducing the term of new exclusive rights of burial to between 25 and 30 years, reviews the extension fee, and considers setting a children's fee to be claimed from the Children's Funeral Fund;
- c) confirms the allotment rents for 2028-29
- d) approves the full schedule of fees and charges for 2027-28 by resolution.

Appendix: sources

All accessed October 2026.

- Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre: <https://oslcommunitycentre.co.uk/rooms-for-hire-facilities/>
- Downton Memorial Centre: <https://downtonmemorialcentre.co.uk/lh-about/lh-pricing>
- Enford Village Hall: <https://enfordnewsletter.org/pdf/evh/Hire%20Charges%202026-2027.pdf>
- Wilton Town Council: https://www.wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Pavilion_Terms_and_Conditions.pdf
- Amesbury Town Council, Bowman Centre: <https://amesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/bowman-centre>
- Amesbury Town Council, Finance minutes 2023: https://www.amesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/_files/ugd/1bafcc_446b6691caab48869b0078e18debc400.pdf
- Amesbury Town Council, cemetery fees 2024: https://www.amesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/_files/ugd/1bafcc_0bf9020a899c4e2ba7e306cd9534f6bc.pdf
- Salisbury City Council, fees and charges 2026-27: <https://salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/202627-Fees-and-Charges-1.pdf>
- Salisbury City Council, crematorium and cemetery fees 2026-27: <https://salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/202627-Fees-and-Charges-Crematorium.pdf>
- Warminster Civic Centre: <https://warminster-tc.gov.uk/civic-centre/room-hire-pricing>
- Tidworth Civic Centre: <https://hallbookingonline.com/tidworth/documents/one.pdf>
- Tidworth Town Council, cemetery fees: <https://tidworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TTC-CEMETERY-FEES-AND-CHARGES-From-01-Apr-2025.pdf>
- Chippenham Town Council: <https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/FEES-AND-CHARGES-26-27-SP.pdf>
- Test Valley Borough Council: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/25051/Fees-and-Charges-2026-27.pdf>
- Kings Worthy Parish Council: <https://kingsworthy-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Football-Pitch-Open-Spaces-fees-Current.pdf>
- Devizes Town Council: <https://www.devizes-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Fees-Charges-2026-27-1.pdf>
- Allington and Boscombe Parish Council: <https://allingtonboscombewilts-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/boscombe-cemetery-2026-27-prices.pdf>
- Marlborough Town Council, cemetery: https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/images/your-council/Cemetery_Charges_26.27.pdf
- Marlborough Town Council, allotments: https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/images/your-council/Open_Spaces_Charges_2026-2027.pdf
- Corsham Town Council, cemetery: <https://www.corsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Table-of-Cemetery-Fees-2026-27-Lacock-Road.pdf>

- Corsham Town Council, allotments: <https://www.corsham.gov.uk/amenities/allotments/>
- Wiltshire Council, cemetery fees: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/4920/Scale-of-fees>
- Melksham Town Council: <https://melksham-tc.gov.uk/melksham-town-council-services/allotments>
- Ringwood Town Council: <https://www.ringwood.gov.uk/admin/resources/admin/allotment-fees-2026-27.pdf>
- Andover Town Council: <https://andover-tc.gov.uk/allotments/frequently-asked-questions>
- Newbury Town Council: <https://www.newbury.gov.uk/media/oc4d24ra/allotment-brochure-2025-26-v-2.pdf>
- Allotments Act 1950, section 10: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/14/31/section/10>
- R (Wood and Turley) v Leeds City Council [2014] EWHC 2598 (Admin): <https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ewhc/admin/2014/2598>