

TITLE OF REPORT:	Cemetery fees for former residents living in residential care homes at time of death				
PROPOSER:	Trudi Barrett				
SUPPORTED BY:(if applicable)					
BACKGROUND: Please describe the reasons for this paper. Is it on behalf of a Working Group? Please provide relevant details, e.g. previous decisions by the Town Council or any external advice. Who is likely to benefit from this decision?	<p>At present the cemetery fees for Much Wenlock cemetery differentiate between residents and non-residents. Resident fees apply where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person to be interred was an inhabitant of the parish of Much Wenlock during the 12 months preceding their death. • The person in respect of whom the exclusive right of burial is granted is a resident of Much Wenlock during the time of purchase. <p>Non-residents are charged double fees for interment and for the purchase of the exclusive right of burial in a grave.</p> <p>Northwood & Sons Funeral Directors have approached the Clerk to request that the Council consider different arrangements for those residents who leave Much Wenlock to go into residential care out of town. It is not always possible for those needing such care to find provision in Much Wenlock. At present, if a former resident of the town dies while in residential care out of town, the family would be charged non-resident (double) fees for the interment and purchase of a grave space for that individual.</p>				
ISSUES: Summarise the key issues arising from the Background (above). Are there any key dates that are relevant?	I have contacted other Clerks in Shropshire to ask how they deal with the situation outlined above. Several parishes (e.g. Wem, Selattyn & Gobowen, Newport, Oswestry Rural) have clauses in their cemetery regulations that make provision for those residents who have had to move out of town into a care home. Sometimes this is for a limited period of time, three or five years, and sometimes open-ended, providing the move was directly from the parish into residential care.				
LEGAL OBLIGATIONS: Wherever possible please check on any likely legal implications.	Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977				
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Please state the costs if known-capital costs as well as on-going revenue costs. State whether funding will be from external sources or from the Town Council.	There would be a slight reduction in cemetery income if residents' fees were charged for former residents in care outside of town at the time of death. It is not possible to quantify this.				
COMMUNITY BENEFIT Please state what benefit this proposal will bring to the community (mandatory)	Lower cemetery fees payable by the families of individuals who have lived in Much Wenlock until needing residential care outside of the town. Improved community perception of Town Council's consideration of the circumstances of former residents in care and their families.				
COMMUNICATIONS: Who else should be informed if the proposal is approved?	Funeral Directors, general public by means of website/notices				
MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS:	Does this need media coverage?	YES		NO	X
TOWN CLERK'S COMMENTS: Including any implications on Town Council staff requirements.	Northwoods have raised this matter as they felt that the families of those who needed to move out of town for residential care were being unfairly charged a non-resident rate. This fee structure could be seen as discriminating against those who wished to stay within the town when they become ill or infirm but were unable to do so due to lack of provision. My research has shown that other local Councils take account of this circumstance within their cemetery fee structure, charging the lower rate.				
PROPOSAL: What specifically do you want the Town Council to decide on?	<p>Whether to amend the cemetery fee structure for interments and purchase of the exclusive right of burial as follows and whether there should be any time limit on this concession:</p> <p><i>Resident fees apply where the person to be interred was a resident of Much Wenlock parish at the time of death or immediately prior to entering a hospital, hospice, nursing home or other care provision outside of Much Wenlock. Fees for persons who do not qualify as residents will be charged at the non-resident rate.</i></p> <p>NB. This should not apply retrospectively to previous burials.</p>				