

Item 7.1 Hawkhurst Parish Council – Basic Allowance

Hawkhurst Parish Council decided to pay Parish Basic Allowance at £330 per annum in 2020/21 to all **elected** councillors of the Parish Council (per regulation 25). Under Regulation 32, a Member may elect in writing to forgo all or any part of this entitlement.

In reaching this decision Hawkhurst Parish Council had regard to the recommendations of the report of the Parish Remuneration Panel and in particular:

- The allowance for Hawkhurst Parish Council should be 6% of the basic allowance for Tunbridge Wells Councillors. The current award for Tunbridge Wells Councillors is £5,500 so that the award is therefore £330pa.
- That no additional chairman allowance should be paid.
- That travel expenses should be paid at the same rate as paid to Tunbridge Wells Councillors and officers of the Council which is at the HMRC approved rate. Travel within the Hawkhurst Parish shall not be remunerated.
- That no allowances are paid for subsistence except if parish councillors are required to attend meetings outside the Tunbridge Wells area when subsistence allowances shall be on the same basis as that awarded to Tunbridge Wells Councillors.
- The Panel is not allowed to recommend children or dependent person allowances. Had it been possible to recommend children or dependent person allowances the panel would have recommended that this was paid at the same rate as that for Borough council members. Had a children or dependent allowance been permitted the panel would have considered awarding a basic allowance of nil as they are of the view that despite the regulations the practice, custom and expectation throughout Kent is that parish councillors are volunteers.

The elected Parish Councillors are: Mike Appelbe, Brian Fitzpatrick, John Hunt, Phil Jones, Barbara Weeden and Paul Whittle.

If any of the elected Parish Councillors wanted to forgo their Parish Basic Allowance they were asked to confirm this by reply **by 12noon Monday 4th May 2020.**

Parish Councillors Brian Fitzpatrick, John Hunt, Phil Jones, Barbara Weeden and Paul Whittle decided to forgo their Parish Basic Allowance.

Due to the fact that a Parish Council election was expected in May 2020 and all 13 Parish Councillors would have been elected and therefore eligible to receive the Parish Basic Allowance we budgeted £4,300 for Parish Basic Allowance in 2020/21.

Recommendation

To pay £330 Parish Basic Allowance to Councillor Mike Appelbe.