

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Allowances

Full Council – 15 May 2018

1. Introduction

In the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances (England) Regulations 2003 Part 5 Parish Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance and a decision regarding allowances is normally made at the Annual Parish Council.

2. Report Details

- 2.1** The allowance is available to every elected Councillors will be the same with the exception of the Chair, who can be paid more. The allowance is paid quarterly and is taxable.
- 2.2** The Councillor Allowance was discussed at length as part of the budget process. A number of Councillors indicated that they would not be taking the allowance and the budget for 2018/19 was set at £6,000. This budget would cover the Chair allowance to remain at £750 per annum and 14 Councillors to take their allowance at the same rate of £375 per annum.
- 2.3** It is entirely a matter for each Councillor to decide whether they wish to receive their allowance.
- 2.4** When an allowance is paid then expenses are normally only paid to Councillors that attend meetings or event outside of the parish and this would also need to be agreed.
- 2.5** The Chair has indicated that he will use his allowance as a donation to the Chair's charity. Other Councillors have indicated that they would like to do this. The only way that this can be dealt with is for the Parish Council to pay the Councillors and they then return the funds to the Parish Council. It is not possible to take instructions from Councillors to pay their allowance to another organisation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That the Parish Council agree the payment of Councillor Allowance for 2018/19.
- 3.2** That the amount of the allowance for Councillors be set at £375 per annum and the Chair's Allowance be set at £750 per annum.
- 3.3** That expenses only be paid to Councillors when representing South Swindon Parish Council outside of the parish.