

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office
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Allowances for Parish Councils

Parish Clerk
Mr MJ Westwood

Report of the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel

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Staplehurst Parish Council has received recommendations from the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of allowances which are:-

- Parish councils can choose to pay a Parish Councillor Allowance which may be up to 15% of the Borough Council's Basic Allowance (namely £700).
- Parish councils can choose to pay a Chairman's Allowance which may be up to 15% of the Borough Council's Basic Allowance (namely £700). This may be paid in addition to or instead of the Basic Allowance.
- The Panel recommends that the mileage allowance remain at 45p per mile (for a car) which is in line with HMRC recommendations.
- The Panel recommends that where a member is suspended or partially suspended, all or part of their allowance (this includes travel and subsistence allowances) should be withheld.
- A Parish Councillor may choose not to receive all or part of any allowance.
- The Panel recommends that Parish Councillor and Chairman allowances should be increased annually by the percentage cost of living increase in line with Borough policy.

Staplehurst Parish Council has chosen to have a Chairman's Budget of £500 to be used at the Chairman's discretion for items related to the office of Chairman. Out of pocket expenses incurred by any Councillor may be reimbursed from the Chairman's Budget at the discretion of the Chairman.

Travel expenses at a rate of 45p per mile on the first 10,000 miles per tax year may be claimed by Councillors, Employees, Parish tree and pond wardens and members of Parish Council groups travelling outside the parish on Parish Council business only.

Parish councils are required to publicise their allowances and display relevant notices for at least 14 days in a conspicuous place. In addition to placing this notification on the village website a poster will be placed on the parish council noticeboard.

The Parish Independent Remuneration Panel report may be inspected on application to the Parish Office during normal opening hours. Copies of the report or information about allowances can be supplied via e-mail or in paper form.

21st May 2015