

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Members' Allowances Scheme

Cotherstone Parish Council has received the recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel for a standardised basic parish allowance, travel and subsistence allowances across County Durham.

A copy of the Independent Remuneration Panel's report is available on the Parish Council's website (www.cotherstoneparishcouncil.org.uk), or for inspection upon giving reasonable notice to the Clerk by email (clerk@cotherstoneparishcouncil.org.uk) or telephone (07534 647252).

The main recommendations and recommended amounts of each allowance relevant to Cotherstone Parish Council are as follows:

Members' basic allowances

Based on the pre-unitary authority creation allowances and using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator, and based on the unitary authority's basic allowance (County Councillors) of £13,300 per annum, the Independent Remuneration Panel approved the following suggested allowances:

Population	Suggested Member allowance
<1,000	0.5% of County basic allowance up to maximum of £65

At its meeting on 10 April 2019, the Parish Council resolved NOT to pay basic allowances to parish councillors.

Other allowances

The Independent Remuneration Panel suggested that parish councils should take cognisance of the following rates paid by the County Council:

- The rate for travel by a Member's own private motor vehicle, or one belonging to a member of his/her family or otherwise provided for his/her use, will be paid at 45.0p per mile.
- Standard Class rail travel is the approved class of travel, although First Class rail can sometimes be the cheaper option dependent upon the time of booking.
- The cost of travel by air shall not exceed the cost applicable to travel by appropriate alternative means of transport, unless in circumstances where the saving in time is so substantial as to justify payment of the fare for travel by air.
- Overnight allowance: in London, up to a maximum claim on production of receipts of £124.76; outside London, up to a maximum claim on production of receipts of £109.39.
- Subsistence allowances: when carrying out approved duties 'out of region', Members may claim up to the approved rates as follows on production of receipts (for an absence not involving an absence overnight from the usual place of residence):

Allowance	Minimum absence from home	Rate
Breakfast	2 hours, which must be before 11am	£6.75
Lunch	2 hours, which must include 12.00 to 14.00	£9.27
Tea	3 hours, which must include 15.00 to 18.00	£3.65
Evening Meal	3 hours, which must be after 19.00	£11.48

Members may claim full reimbursement of the reasonable cost (including VAT) of a main meal (full breakfast, lunch or dinner) taken on a train. Members wishing to claim must submit receipts. Where full reimbursement is claimed the allowance for the meal provided cannot also be claimed, ie. breakfast, lunch, dinner etc.

At its meeting on 10 April 2019, the Parish Council resolved to set other (non-basic) allowances on the basis recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.