

Parish Council Meeting – 20th October 2020

Item 6 - External Toilet Facilities

Background

The provision of providing external toilet facilities was discussed at the Communities Committee on the 14th January 2020, when a proposal from a company specialising in standalone toilet facilities was discussed. The features that could be built into the facility were automated opening & closing system and contactless entry system (to raise revenue). They could also supply remote monitoring, cleaning, maintenance, and cash management. The unit would need to be connected to the electricity and water supplies and the units started at £62,000.

The decision taken was, as the community centre's utilities were inadequate, they would not be able to cope with the increased electricity and water demands, so no facilities should be provided.

Current Option

The current option under discussion is a secure portable unit. Quotes have been obtained from a company and these have been circulated, along with diagrams and pictures of the units.

The following are questions that have been raised with answers in red.

- The power unit seems to cost much more per week than the hire itself. Is it needed? I can see that the larger unit has heating, but it does not look like the smaller one does. Is it possible to use a mains connection and could we? – **The power pod allows for a water supply that can be refilled at a cost of £150 per 1,000 litres.**
- How often might emptying be required? – **Will depend upon how often it is used.**
- How is it re-supplied with soap, paper etc? – **The parish council would be responsible for supplying the soap and paper towels etc.**
- Can it be locked? – **The units are lockable from the outside.**
- The website talks about connection to mains water and drainage, which I'm assuming we couldn't do. What does that add to the costs? Actually – it looks like this is dealt with via the power pod. But how does water get added to that on a regular basis? – **The toilet blocks are set on top of effluent tanks; these are emptied at an additional charge of £150 up to 1,000 gallons or £275 up to 1,600 gallons.**
- What are the 'other costs' you refer to? – **Effluent emptying. Cleaning service, if taken.**
- It is not set up for disabled access. An issue? – **Not accessible for the disabled.**
- Where are we thinking of siting it? Does that site work for this building (plus power pod if required)? – **I have asked them whether they do a site visit before confirming the order.**
- Did we agree to have this facility for everyone or just the football team? – **No decision made.**
- Who is going to clean and maintain the facility. This was all discussed early in the year. – **You can buy a cleaning service otherwise it will need to be arranged by the parish council. Maintenance by the parish council.**
- How big is the power pod and what about installation of a base and depending on where it is sited a path may be needed.
- We will need a separate meter for the water and electricity supply as, at present the only meter separate from the community centre is for the car park lighting. Costs for the new electric and water supply should be factored in.

Estimated Costings - Based upon the quote received, I have estimated the cost to be:

1+1 Unit - £10,300 plus extra if not connected to existing utilities, say £3,600 (£300 per month – one empty and one refill) = approximately £14,000 per annum.

2+1 Unit - £10,800 plus extra if not connected to existing utilities, say £3,600 (£300 per month – one empty and one refill) = approximately £14,400 per annum.

Plus there would be the ongoing costs of cleaning and consumables (will need to allow for the covid-19 cleaning requirements), so a budget of around £20,000 would not be unreasonable.