

Toilet Closure 2020/21

Background

A paper was produced for the June 2020 meeting describing the options for opening / closing the toilets this financial year in light of the Covid-19 crisis.

The June meeting approved the opening of the toilets in mid-July, with a daily cleaning schedule, and a proposed closure at the end of November 2020 through to the end of March 2021. The cost of this over the whole financial year was an additional £836, which is unbudgeted.

Although the toilet opening has gone well with SW Cleaners handling the cleaning, we are now approaching November and SW Cleaners will require notice of cessation.

Review

Under the existing arrangement, leaving the toilets open would cost an additional £873 per month for cleaning.

Investigations of renewed national guidance have shown that it may be possible to reduce cleaning to one hour per day for 5 days of the week with no monthly deep clean, this being the arrangement pre Covid-19, but without the sanitisers, signage and recording systems. Under this arrangement then the monthly cost would be £390 per month.

Regardless, these are all unbudgeted costs. An emergency repair fund of £800 exists and so far, this has not been called upon as repairs have been carried out voluntarily. However, there is still the possibility of repair costs, even if the toilets are closed (water leaks, electrical problems etc). In any event, even if this fund is not called upon, it would still only cover the overspend on cleaning already incurred.

Conclusion

The default position from the June meeting is that the toilets will close from the beginning of November for the remainder of the financial year. Notice would be given to the cleaning company accordingly.

A case would have to be made by the Parish Council if the toilets were to be kept open in Winter from December to March inclusive or any period within, in order to justify the consequential budget overspend. If we were able to attract any additional grant funding for the purpose then clearly that would be a different matter, but that is not the situation currently.

DW 20/10/20