
Mechanics Institute Union Jack Flag

The caretaker has commented that the Union Jack Flag we purchased has already frayed considerably and could do with replacing. This is the polyester flag we purchased as a cheaper alternative than the hand sewn flags. I have done a comparison of longevity to see which is more cost effective. The polyester flag was purchased for £25.00 in July and as stated is already badly frayed. The hand sewn flag was last purchased in October 2020 for a total cost of £85.26 for a 180cm x 90cm flag, the same flag would now cost £107.68 plus delivery with anti-fray netting. Due to the different in the longevity I recommend we acquire a hand sewn flag at the higher cost as it is far more durable. The netting can also be reapplied to help increase the longevity of the flag. Just for an indication of how badly the polyester flag is damaged the caretaker is looking to put up the old hand sewn flag as it is in better condition.

Town Council Clock

Earlier this year we considered a replacement clock for the Mechanics Institute if our caretaker couldn't get the current one working. After trying multiple times the caretaker is unable to get the clock working consistently so it would be best to replace it as it is far more cost effective than renovating the existing clock. I am currently trying to get a cost for the removal and replacement of the clock which I hope to present at the meeting. I have costs for a new clock provided by Cllr Lomax from our previous meeting. I just need to establish the installation costs including scaffolding.

Whaley Bridge Hanging Basket Brackets

I have received a few requests for additional WB hanging basket brackets from various businesses. I am trying to work out exactly how many brackets we would need as we do have some that are unused and could potentially be moved. If we need new brackets made I will attempt to get a cost for the Town Council meeting.

Grant Payments

Just to note two of the agreed grant payments have been paid in advance of the accounts for payment due to the urgent nature of the applications. Firstly, the grant to Synergy for the defibrillator at Bridgemont has been paid as there is a time limit on the London Hearts grant scheme they had applied too. As I sent via email I can confirm that the funds for the defibrillator grant have been sent. The second is the business grant to Whaley Bridge Coworkers which was agreed in October. There was a delay with the opening of the business account which meant it wasn't paid in November. The account is now open and as they were using their personal money for the business, I set up the grant payment to be paid as soon as possible.

Phone and Broadband Contract

When discussing the printer contract with Zero they mentioned they also provide telecommunication contracts for the phone & broadband. After discussing our requirements and noting that I have been given delegated responsibility to sign a new contract before our out of contract cost with TalkTalk increased to £125.00 a month, I agreed a new contract with Zero. I had done multiple price comparisons, and all of the new contracts essentially require you to move onto VoIP with a substantially increased cost compared to our current phone & broadband. This does come with a number of additional services such as remote access and remote phone hosting which could be very useful if we need to vacate the office for a prolonged period of time during the Mechanics works. As part of the deal Zero will provide new handsets to replace our old existing ones. The total cost for this is £91.95 a month for the phone, broadband and the handsets.

Town Clerk, 5 December 2024