

Agenda Item 10

Public Conveniences:

Background:

Pendle Borough Councils Scrutiny Review Committee held a recent review of public conveniences in Pendle. The main recommendation was that Pendle Borough Council asked the individual parish & town councils if they were prepared to take over the running and future maintenance of toilets. With this in mind Mr. Bryan Thompson contacted Cllr. Simpson asking if the council wished to enter into discussions. Cllr. Simpson responded and a meeting was arranged with the Clerk.

The Clerk attended a meeting with Bryan Thompson and Phillip Mousdale and was informed:

- Pendle Borough Council had no legal obligation to provide public conveniences.
- That due to government reductions in borough council funding, the long term future of public conveniences was uncertain.
- That Pendle Borough Council was willing to hand over the freehold of the building to the individual parish or town council.
- That a grant would be paid for potentially the first two years towards the cost of maintenance.
- That once handed over charges for the use of the conveniences could be introduced.

Current Budgeted Running Costs for the Convenience situated at Fleece Corner:

The following figures were supplied by Pendle Borough Council as the current running costs but do not include a figure for insurance.

Operation	Budgeted Cost
Cleaning	£2875.00
Maintenance	£1000.00
Electric/ Water Charges	£2460.00
Rates	£960.00
Total	£7295.00

Questions that need Resolving:

1. Does the Parish Council wish to enter further more detailed negotiations with Pendle Borough Council? If the answer is yes then the following questions will need resolving.
2. How much of the current running costs will Pendle Borough Council allocate to the Parish to run these toilets?
3. How long will the allocation of funds last?
4. Is the Parish Council prepared to increase the precept in future years to meet the running costs of the toilets?
5. Will the Council wish to recoup some of the costs by introducing charges for use of the toilets and when?

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6. Who will carry out the day to day duties of maintaining the toilets?
7. Who will open & lock the toilets?

If the Council decide to enter into further discussions with Pendle Borough Council this in no way binds the Council to take on the running of the toilets until a mutually binding agreement is agreed and signed.

Implications for Barrowford:

Barrowford Parish Council has the potential to reduce overall running costs on cleaning and maintenance but the main concern should be the future retention of the only public convenience left in Barrowford or the park. Given that this is the case and that the Parish Council is eager to promote tourism and visitor satisfaction within the village, would the removal of the facility be of greater detriment to the village's future than the possibility of a £3 to £3.50 increase in Band D precept levels to fund the current costs to Pendle Borough Council?