

Agenda Item 7

Works Vehicle:

Barrowford Parish Council has always relied on staff vehicles for council use, which was acceptable when before the devolvement of services to the council. The Clerk of the Council has always used their own vehicle for travelling to meetings and other local visit, whilst the handyman was paid an essential user's allowance to use their vehicle for council work.

This system worked fine until the handy man had prolonged leave of absence through an industrial injury. The Clerks vehicle then became the sole work vehicle and for the last two years has been used for towing trailers for festive decorations and planters along with numerous other works activities. The Clerk appreciated that this would become a problem and through the Council increased the new equipment budget.

The Clerks vehicle developed a serious gearbox problem and became beyond economical repair. The Council has now been operating for two months without the use of a vehicle capable of meeting the Councils needs. The use of the Clerks Vehicle and the Council trailer give a vehicle approximately 9m long which through the increase in traffic on Gisburn Road has become problematic to use and puts both the driver and handymen at risk.

The Clerk has seen this first hand these difficulties caused by motorist intolerance meaning that by and large this work cannot be done during the normal working week, with the staff resorting to either early Saturday or Sunday mornings when the traffic volume is reduced but flow increases by 10am.

The Clerk recommends that the Council purchases a flatbed transit or similar for the council works team which would increase visibility for both the driver and staff allowing a safer method of bringing in and putting out planters and festive decorations. The Council has a new machinery budget of just over £19,000 and the Clerk suggests that up to £15,000 be allocated to the provision of a suitable works transport with a leeway up to the full £19,000 for the ideal vehicle.