

Report No. TC03420 Appendix: F Agenda Item: 13	Meeting: Council Date of Meeting: 28-10-20
OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL	
Report Author(s): David Romney	Title: Councillor/Chairman
Subject: Electrical Car Charging Point	
Strategic Aims: (i) Ensure robust financial controls are in place to enable the delivery of cost-effective services as required now and in the future (ii) Improve and increase facilities within the town	

Background

During March 2013 Council resolved to install 1 floor mounted post double charger point. This charges two cars at the same time. Power comes from the existing electrical supply within the adjacent toilet block. Oakham Town Council is responsible for all electricity bills at the toilet block.

Following Government advice regarding COVID-19, the Council made the decision to close the Church Street public toilets, effective from 23rd March 2020, which gave an opportunity to turn off all the electricity apart from the double charger point.

Over the last year many members have raised the issue regarding the high cost of electricity to the toilets in Church Street. So, during lockdown, I made enquires with Chargemaster. I was advised that our points were set up as a 'community scheme' through 'Plugged-in-Midlands', which was taken over by Chargemaster as part of their commercial network.

I asked them to contact the Clerk of the Council so that we could have it put on a commercial basis. After a time of not hearing from them, I contacted them again 4 weeks ago and spoke to the sales department. They told me that we should get a refund on the costs previously incurred. Once again, I ask them to contact the Clerk. As of today, the Council has had no communications from them.

Meter/Car charges

When we closed the toilets, a meter reading was taken (8883units with another reading taken the end of June (9940units) during lockdown. We used 1057 units of electricity at an estimated cost to the Council of £211.40 based on 20p per unit. Working on figures to hand I estimate over the previous seven years the car charging points have cost the Council £5600, and this is a very conservative estimate.

Given the lack of communication from Chargemaster, members may feel that we should be looking at alternative providers.

One such route is to have the existing points removed and investigate setting up our own scheme. Which we as a Council would control and collect the revenue from. This could be done through systems like Pod Point (see link <https://pod-point.com/solutions/business/commercial-charging>)

Decisions:

- Council asks the Clerk to write to Chargemaster asking them to contact the Council within two weeks or the points will be turned off
- Council asks the Clerk to obtain a full refund from Chargemaster for costs incurred
- Council asks the Clerk to contact Pod Point for more information.
- Council forms a working group to investigate our own scheme