

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	33-2020		
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Title:	Pressure Washer		
To:	Full Council	Date:	19.11.20
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Purpose of Report

To consider purchasing a stand-alone pressure washer.

Background:

There are various areas of the town that require pressure washing these include the multitude of steps leading down into the main township, Fore street, and various pathways and alleys in the surrounding hamlet of Brixham. The steps are also used for access to various schools by parents and pupils around the town. In wet conditions these areas become slippery with mould and moss and need to be cleaned on a cyclical basis.

Whilst SWISCo have a planned program for carrying out their own Lengthsman duties in the Brixham area they only have two staff to cover the whole of Torbay, and the variety of duties they cover in their cycle of tasks will not allow them to maintain the range of duties that BTC Lengthsman will be able to. This includes a comprehensive program to pressure wash all the set of steps and pathways in the town and surrounding area.

It would also allow us some independence in maintaining this type of task and not wait on a program cycle from Torbay council's contractor, it may be that a specific set of steps could be left for 6-12 months before the planned works are scheduled in (if at all), where as if required we could carry out the work every 3 months depending on the need.

This would be an innovative move for the Town Council, showing forward thinking and underline the Councils commitment to the upkeep of the town and surrounding area.

Options

Having assessed the tasks involved, the options to be able to pressure wash these areas are limited, a standard pressure washer for the work we need to carry out would be prohibitive if not a total non-starter.

The issue with a normal pressure washer is the need for a 240v power supply and a separate water supply. This would involve purchasing a generator of some description as well as having to source a water supply- normal pressure washers will work off a standard garden hose - which will not be available for the work we will be undertaking. We could purchase a water bowser but these can be cumbersome and we would need to consider how we would fit the bowser and a standalone generator plus the pressure washer into the van. Yes they would easily fit on the trailer, however access to the steps whilst towing the trailer would also then become an issue on the small lanes at the top or bottom of the steps and especially leading on to Fore street where health and safety becomes a concern with all of the equipment laid out for use. Once you start adding the cost of purchasing a generator + water bowser + the actual pressure washer together, it become apparent that an alternative solution should be explored.

Research has led to investigation of standalone pressure washers which combines the power source, water supply and the pressure washer itself in one unit. The most suitable for our needs is the following, based on cost, manoeuvrability, servicing, parts availability and size of water tank.

Pressure washer WBU8200P- with 120l water tank.

Ideal for use in public spaces where you can avoid the trip hazards of the water hose and electric cable trailing behind you. Ideal for pathways, cleaning, steps, spot cleaning graffiti, vehicle washing and wheelie bin cleaning.

The engine is made by Honda so reliable, it is portable with its own water tank. It will be easily manoeuvrable and transportable, the safest pressure washer for our needs. It will lift all the mould and slip hazard detritus on the steps, and negates the need for a separate electrical power supply and water supply.

It would be a long term investment for the council that would by my estimates (if having to hire a private firm to carry out this type of work) pay its self-back within 12 months. It will reduce the amount of man hours utilised by the Lengthsmen in carrying this type of work out manually)



Costings

The cost of the pressure washer is £1,335.48 (incl. VAT)

Fuel consumption- it has a 3.1 litre standard petrol tank that if used on medium revs will last for approximately 3 hours

Livery: to place a BTC logo and name on the water tank will cost approximately an additional £50-£75.

Income

Possible revenue streams could be made by jetting private drives and cleaning out waste/ recycle boxes. Like the Garden assistance scheme but based more a revenue platform as opposed to assisting in the community and not based on age or disability.

Recommendation:

That Brixham Town Council purchases:

- Pressure washer WBU8 200P- with 120l water tank costing £1,335.48
- BTC livery is installed on the water tank.