



Brixham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett

Report Number	14-2022	Date	23.05.2022
Report Type	Public	Meeting	Community and Environment
Contact Officer	Ross Green	Job Title	Deputy Town Clerk
Report Title	Vehicle Purchase		

Summary

Brixham Town Council have agreed to increase the Lengthsmen service to three members of staff but before the recruitment process can commence, the Town Council need to purchase an additional works vehicle. The Town Council resolved to approve the budget for the financial year 2022/23 on 09TH February 2022 which included the purchase of a new vehicle be allowed for within ear marked reserves.

Brixham Town Council have committed to working towards net zero by 2030, the town council aims to reduce as much climate-damaging carbon emissions as possible, and consideration has been given that the introduction of electric vehicles is a necessary and important part of reaching that milestone. Research has shown that the market is saturated with electric vehicles as the industry moves towards government targets on banning the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

Recommendation

It is recommend that The Community and Environment Committee resolve to:

- Purchase of Option one, a Melex 3-Series Cargo (7.2 Kwh battery with external three phase fast charger)
- Install a charge point at Brixham Town Hall

Supporting Information

When researching the purchase of a new vehicle for the Lengthsmen's Service, consideration has been given to the following factors;

- purchase type
- cost
- vehicle type
- fuel type
- size
- use of staff vehicle

The Lengthsmen's Service currently have a Citroen van and the service would benefit from having a second vehicle to accommodate the new member of staff and be able to have the service working simultaneously in different locations. A utility vehicle (UTV) is a compact

vehicle with a small width, these characteristics lend itself to being a suitable vehicle to navigate the small roads and spaces in Brixham. A second vehicle would help support the expansion of the Lengthsmen service and would accommodate more amounts of waste collection from allotment sites, the gardening assistance scheme and being able to transport larger equipment.

Electric vehicles

The benefits of owning an electric vehicle are well known, bringing multiple benefits including:

- Environmental impact
- Increased safety
- Improved health
- Lower noise pollution
- Savings on fuel, tax and maintenance costs.

The perceived disadvantages of an electric car are the driving range, increase in energy bills and recharge time. However, when we consider the Lengthsmen travel between 50-70 miles per week, that will not be an impact on the service.

Fully electric vehicles have zero tailpipe emissions making them greener, cleaner and better for the environment. It could be possible to power the electric vehicle with 100% renewable electricity, another vital step to decarbonisation.

Workplace Charging Scheme

The workplace charging scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities, and public sector organisations.

The grant covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV charge points capped at a maximum of £350.00 per socket and 40 sockets across all sites per applicant.

Once the charge point has been installed, the authorised installer will claim the grant on the applicant's behalf.

Brixham Town Council could, in the first instance, install a charge point at the Town Hall in the current Lengthsmen's parking spot and later explore the installation of a second charge point at the proposed depot for the Lengthsmen's service.

Research has shown that the average installation cost of a EV ChargePoint is £1000 (or £650 if you include the workplace charging scheme).

Option one: Melex 3-Series Cargo (Electric)

The Melex is manufactured using high-quality robust materials, offering strong build quality and durability. The vehicle would offer 35-40 miles of range on a charge, 28mph top speed, and a load capacity of 675kgs. The costs below include heated front windscreen, towbar, waste cage, rotating orange strobe, hill climb gear and a choice of body colours.

The Melex is a L7E vehicle, classed as a quadricycle.

Battery type	Cost
2.3 Kwh lithium battery and on board charger	£24,195.25 (ex VAT)
7.2 Kwh with external three phase fast charger	£25,207.75 (ex VAT)

The lead times are 12 weeks to be ready to be delivered but there is an additional 4-6 week wait for road registration.

This is an example of the Melex 3-Series Cargo:



Option two: Capella Work Machine

The work machine is an all-electric utility vehicle from STAR EV designed to move around people and equipment quietly, safely and efficiently. It comes with a 210ah (10Kw) Lithium battery offering up to 70 miles range. The rear cargo capacity is 500kgs and has a 520kg tow capacity.

Battery type	Cost
2.3 Kwh lithium battery and on board charger	£18,495 (ex VAT)

The cost of a cabbed work machine include a mesh cage, beacon and heater would be £18,495. Whilst the work machine is a cheaper alternative it offers considerably less rear cargo carry capacity than other options available.

The Capella Work Machine was test driven by Council Officers at a recent open day hosted by a supplier. It was noted the rear cargo space was limited and would not be practical for the equipment the Lengthsmen use. The cab is taken from a golf buggy and the design of the vehicle is focused towards work on golf courses, large estates, campuses, as opposed to work around a urban area.

This is an example of the Capella Work Machine:



Option three: Goupil G4 Cage Pick-Up

The Goupil G4 is an all-electric, zero emission light commercial utility vehicle, road homologated to N1. The G4 has a payload of up to 1200kg, a top speed of 31mph and handles gradients up to 18% laden and 30% unladen. The average distance on a full charge is 95 miles. This option of vehicles comes with mesh cage body and dropdown sides.

Battery type	Cost
9.0 Kwh lithium battery and on board charger	£31,694 (ex VAT)

Bradshaw Electric Vehicles do offer a five year contract hire option for the Goupil at approximately £648 per month. The cost includes full service and maintenance with two service visits per year. However, this is a significant cost over a five year period and the Town Council would not own the vehicle at the end of the contract.

This is an example of the Goupil G4 Cage Pick-up:



Option four: Use of a staff vehicle

The report has also explored the potential of a Lengthsman using their own vehicle. Whilst an initial low cost option for the Town Council, further exploration has identified concerns about this being a viable option. The Town Council would need oversight and regular monitoring to ensure the member of staff has business insurance for their vehicle, that records relating to maintenance of the vehicle and MOT certificates are shared. It is noted that the same risk management of employees and their vehicles would apply equally to staff driving a vehicle owned by the Town Council.

There would be concerns of any vehicle being suitable for the jobs the Lengthsman undertake, as opposed to a purpose built vehicle as shown above. The Town Council

would be responsible for reimbursement of expenses, namely for mileage and the employee would need to be informed that the regular routing of 'home to work' is not considered in reimbursement of their mileage.