

Members are requested to NOTE this report and CONSIDER the recommendations for Lydiard Millicent Parish Council Broadband and Mobile Phone Requirements

Introduction

Lydiard Millicent Parish Council (LMPC) pays for a phone line and internet connectivity into Jubilee Club House, two mobile phones, one for the clerk and one for the handyman.

The current broadband provider, bOnline, has contacted us to say that we are out of contract on our broadband provision, and offered a revised price for improved broadband. This was discussed at the October council meeting, and it was agreed that we would look at alternative options.

The clerk's phone is out of contract; the handyman's phone is in contract until early 2022.

Requirements

JCH

JCH is used fairly regularly as an office and meeting place. Broadband is used to access email, citrix servers and an accounting package. The maximum number of users tends to be two, so basic broadband access would meet this requirement.

The landline phone is used occasionally by the clerk or councillors. There is an answering machine on the landline phone, and the number is usually diverted to the clerk's mobile number. The landline number is displayed on the outside of the building and was advertised on the website until quite recently, although this has been replaced by the clerk's mobile number.

There is no public wifi in the building.

Clerk

The clerk's phone needs to be able to make/receive calls, view emails and browse the internet. There may be a low-medium level of traffic on this phone (no calls have been received to the clerk's phone during October). The clerk will spend some time working from home, so there may be a requirement to provide internet access via the phone, or an allowance for internet access.

Handyman

The handyman's phone needs to be able to make/receive calls and view emails. There should be minimal traffic on this phone.

Potential Future Requirements

There may be a requirement to stream council meetings in the future. These are held in the Parish Hall which does not have wifi.

Current costs

	Per month
JCH broadband phone and unlimited calls	37.73
Handyman's phone	6.00
Clerk's phone (1Gb data per month)	36.95
Total per month	80.68

Note: costs are inclusive of VAT.

	Current Cost		Forecast Cost	
	Per month	Per Year	Per month	Per Year
JCH broadband and phone line	£ 37.73	£ 452.76	£ 22.00	£ 264.00
Handyman's phone	£ 6.00	£ 72.00	£ 6.00	£ 72.00
Clerk's phone	£ 36.95	£ 443.40	£ 8.00	£ 96.00
Total per month	£ 80.68	£ 968.16	£ 36.00	£ 432.00

Options investigated

Bundled Packages

There are relatively few options for business bundles that cover broadband, landline and mobile phones, and they typically include an allocation for a relatively high amount of calls, therefore this option is unlikely to cost in. Similarly, domestic bundles typically include TV which is not a requirement here, so the recommendation is that we continue with separate arrangements for broadband and mobile phones.

JCH

A basic internet package will meet the current broadband requirements at JCH, so the main decision is whether to include Anytime calls in the package, or pay for calls separately. Here are some example prices from providers for business grade packages, including the cheapest Anytime package available at the time:

Provider	Speed (up to)	Downloads	Setup costs	Contract term (months)	Calls	Per month 1st 6 months	Per month after 6 months	Year 1 Cost	2 year cost
TalkTalk Business	17Mb	Unlimited	£ -	12	PAYG	£ 17.95	£ 17.95	£ 215.40	£ 430.80
bOnline	24Mb	Unlimited	£ 15.00	24	PAYG	£ 13.95	£ 19.90	£ 218.10	£ 456.90
plusnet	18Mb	Unlimited	£ 4.99	24	PAYG	£ 18.00	£ 18.00	£ 220.99	£ 436.99
TalkTalk Business	17Mb	Unlimited	£ -	12	Anytime	£ 23.95	£ 23.95	£ 287.40	£ 574.80

Note: Prices exclude VAT. Prices vary almost daily, so these represent typical prices.

From this it appears that the Anytime package adds about £60 per year to the cost, excluding VAT, so the recommendation is to go for a PAYG provider and limit the number of calls made from the landline.

At the moment, the Council's plans for JCH are relatively unclear, so it is also recommended that we look at a 12 month contract, either with a new provider, such as TTB, or with our existing provider as they may be able to match the price without the disruption of moving providers.

Clerk's phone

The clerk's existing phone is an iPhone 6s which appears to be in good condition. The phone is out of contract therefore the recommendation is to move to a SIM only deal for now, with a relatively high data allowance so the phone can be used as a mobile hot spot if required. For example;

Provider	Data per month	Calls	Texts	Contract Term	Cost per month
Vodafone	15Gb	Unlimited	Unlimited	12 months	£8.00

There are lots of deals like this on the market, so if possible we should go with a provider that has good coverage at JCH.

Handyman's phone

The handyman's phone is very cost effective and appears to be meeting requirements at the moment, so the recommendation is that this stays as is.

Summary of recommendations

Based on the options investigated and listed below, the recommendation is that we:

- Move to a 12 month PAYG basic broadband package for JCH, at an approximate cost of £22.00 per month (saving of approx. £15.00 per month)
- Move the clerk's phone to a 12 month SIM only contract with a higher data allowance, at an approximate cost of £8 per month (saving approx. £29.00 per month)
- Leave the handyman's phone on the existing contract for now

Councillor Westwood

October 2021