

Play Park Matters

Orchard Meadow – Electricity & Water Supply & Cabinet Access

In November 2023 & December 2023 Puddletown Area Parish Council were charged £7.72 (+VAT) both months for the electric standing charge for the electric supply in Orchard Meadow. In May 2023 Puddletown Area Parish Council were charged £19.23 (no VAT) for a water standing charge from November 22 to 15th May 2023. We were also charged £37.56 in December 2023 for standing charges between 16th May 2023 & 7th December 2023

The power supply within Orchard Meadow was predominantly used to charge the Puddletown Area Parish Council Speed Indicator Device battery, however we have recently had solar panels fitted and therefore the necessity to recharge the batteries has decreased. It is worth noting although we have solar panels fitted it is likely the batteries will still require a top up once or twice during the winter months.

The electric & water are used from time to time by the Tolpuddle Events Committee when putting on events for residents. These events can be ticket events.

Moving forward are Council happy to pay £7.72 per month for the electric standing charge so that the SID battery and external users can use the electricity supply, plus approx. £5.37 per month for the water standing charge so that external users can use the water supply as and when needed. If so, is it the Council's wish to charge external users for the electricity & water used or not?

We have recently had a smart meter installed and therefore we should be able to log in online to the portal to take a electric meter reading before and after the event. We do not have a smart water meter and therefore would need to manually take readings before and after the event.

Both the electric and water supply are covered by a cabinet, albeit in need of replacement. At present the cabinet latches closed but the facilities are accessible to the public. It is therefore recommended that the cabinet be fitted with a combination lock.

Recommendation: To discuss and agree away forward:

1. To keep or disconnect the electricity & water supply in Orchard Meadow
2. If kept, to charge or not external users of the electricity & water used to run an event.
3. If kept, to fit a combination lock to the cabinet to restrict access to facilities.