

# CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



**Full Council Meeting  
14 May 2020**

## **Item FC029: To receive a report on costs to replace the gas fire at Queens Hall and approve a supplier**

### **1. Background**

The gas stove in the main office was condemned after its annual inspection late in 2019. The inspection was carried out by our regular gas contractors, but as it was unexpected, we sought a second opinion from another source. Unfortunately, and even though the stove was only installed in 2004, it has proved impossible to source the necessary replacement parts and the office had to be heated through the winter months with various electric fan heaters.

2. For this reason, in late April I sent out four requests to local stove suppliers to quote for a replacement.

3. For information, the installation of a new stove will necessarily be one with a conventional flue (ie. one which is vented up the chimney stack) and not a 'balanced' flue (the passageway to the side of the building is too narrow for this).

4. The intention is to have the new device installed during around September/October to be sure of having suitable heating prior to the onset of winter.

### **5. Responses**

To date I have received three responses (see table below). The first said that they do not deal with gas stoves any longer and recommended another company (which was in fact one of the others that I had approached); the second sent two detailed quotes, one for a balanced flue and one for a conventional one. The latter is far more expensive as they would need to remove and replace the liner; their estimate was £1,500 for the preparatory work (exclusive of the stove itself) – a suitable stove (they suggested five possible ones) would cost between £1,339 and £1,989. This indicates an outlay of approximately £2,839; the third sent a brief email message saying that we "*would be looking at around £2500 - £3000 for a replacement install*".

	Estimate	Comments
Supplier 1	-	No longer installing gas stoves
Supplier 2	£2,839	Local but not previously used – very detailed response
Supplier 3	£2,500 – 3,000	Previously used by the Council, but short on detail
Supplier 4	-	No response

6. I have left a voicemail and sent an email to Supplier 4, but have not yet received an estimate from them.

**7. Remarks**

We can safely assume that the cost of the work to install a new gas stove will be around the £3,000 mark.

8. Whilst this may seem expensive, we might consider our expenditure on gas and electricity over the last two years (see table below). With the enforced use of electric fan heaters over the winter this year, our electricity bill was over £700 more than the previous year (and gas was £200 less). It is reasonable to conclude that over a period of around five years we will have recovered the cost of the new installation.

Queen's Hall: Gas & Electricity Comparison	2018-19	2019-20
Gas	3,042.00	2,800.00
Electricity	3,425.00	4,208.00

**9. Recommendation**

Pending a response from Supplier 4, my inclination would be to go with Supplier 2 who took the time to request full information about the site and provided a detailed quotation based on that information.

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Date: 11 May 2020