

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Fairground and Cemetery 21/09/2023

Fairground and Grazing Area Electricity Meters 2024/25

Agenda item 23/018 2. To receive a report and resolve actions to be taken and any associated budget.

Background

The electricity meters in the Fairground car park and on the grazing area are very high, making both access and taking meter readings difficult. Previously, the office has looked at having smart meters fitted but 1) on a site visit SSE explained they do not have long enough ladders to undertake this and 2) there is limited space in the current meter cabinets.

The Council's electricity supplier was SSE. In 2020, OVO Energy brought SSE Energy Services and the billing transition is now in place. Although OVO are now the Council's energy supplier, some infrastructure work still needs to be undertaken by SSE.

Further to April's meeting, the office approached OVO regarding moving the current meter in the Fairground car park down to a more acceptable level and having a smart meter installed. As a result, a site meeting was undertaken on the 7th of September with an SSE electrician. Although the application was for the meter in the car park, the two meters on the grazing area were also discussed.

Summary from Site Visit

- Smart meters cannot be put into the current tennis court/conservation area green cabinets as these are privately owned by the Council.
- To date an application has only been made for the car park supply to be lowered. If the Council wishes to also move the two cabinets on the grazing area, then separate applications need to be submitted stating the location and meter numbers. Photos also need to be provided showing the height of the current cabinets.
- To move the cabinets, the process is:
 - SMPC install new green cabinets close to the current white boxes.
 - Apply to SSE to drop the supply into these cabinets. They will:
 - Provide a quote which will need paying within 92 days
 - Once paid they will give a date for dropping the supply into the new green cabinets
 - On the same date SSE are dropping the supply, the Council will need to arrange for:

- OVO to put in a new meter – it may not be possible to have smart meters but if the meters are lower it will be easier to obtain meter readings.
 - For its electrician to re connect the private supply.
 - If the above aren't done on the same day, then there will be no power. Power is needed for the cabinet near the tennis courts to operate the tennis court gates.
- The SSE electrician recommended:
 - The car park to have a larger green cabinet near the base of the pole with a smaller cabinet being installed in the proposed Utility Square once insitu with a plug in it for Christmas lights etc.
 - Grazing area King Street end, to have a larger green cabinet near the base of the pole.
 - Grazing area Hammonds Heath end, to have a smaller green cabinet near the base of the pole.
- Costs:
 - The quote for dropping the car park supply, which lasts for 92 days from the 7th of September, is £885.48 + VAT. It would currently be the same price for the other two should an application be submitted.
 - Cost of SMPC's electrician supplying and installing new cabinets and reconnecting the supply once the meters have been dropped.
 - It is not known if OVO will charge to install new meters.

Clerk 13/09/2023