

Agenda Item 15 – Purchase of Defibrillator Training Aid and Manikin Set for CPR, updated from previous paper

The Council has received a request from Dave Maynard, a Director of the pre-school, to consider the purchase of a defibrillator training aid and a manikin set for the local community. This would enable local people to be trained to effectively use the defibrillators in the village and to administer chest compressions to people within all age groups.

Location of Defibrillators in Willand

There are three 24/7 accessible defibrillators in Willand – Outside the Gables Pre-school, the Post Office and Pencarrie. There is also a defibrillator at Willand Rovers Football Club, which is accessible when the ground is open.

The pre-school raised the funds to purchase the defibrillators at the Post Office and the Pre-School; these were not paid for by school funds but through fund raising. Dave ensures that these are maintained with the Parish Council paying for items such as replacement pads and batteries. It is not considered appropriate to use pre-school funds to finance the defibrillators as the monies are intended for the direct benefit of the Children at the school. The defibrillators are for the benefit of the village as a whole.

Cost

The cost for the training defibrillator is £395 plus VAT.

The cost for the manikin set for chest compression training is £525 plus VAT.

Overall cost: £920 plus VAT.

Training

Dave Maynard is First Aid qualified and will provide the training and venue free of charge. SMT Ambulance Service at Hitchcocks Business Centre will be certifying Dave as a qualified and competent trainer before any training is undertaken. So far 48 local people have put their names down for the training following a Facebook post on the Defibrillator for Willand page, which was shared by the Parish Council and other local groups. This is more than sufficient to run several training events and there are opportunities to promote further sessions.

Dave wishes to run small events of 6-8 people to enable each participant to be able to fully participate and gain the best from the training so they feel enabled to use the equipment and undertake chest compressions. Training offered by other organisations is usually in larger groups and does not therefore provide the level of personalised training desired.

Following on from the January meeting the Clerk has spoken to the Clerk at Halberton as they hold Defibrillator training – they lease their equipment from South West Ambulance Service who provide free training once a year in the Village Hall as part of the package. Sampford Peverell, who own their equipment, organise training once a year with the trainer providing the equipment for the training. Neither option provides the level of awareness training in the small groups being proposed.

Budget & Spending Power

The Council can use S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for expenditure where there is no other specific power. This should be spent on projects, services and facilities, which will benefit the local area and its residents. The training will provide for a core of people within the village who are able to administer chest compressions and who are familiar with the use of the defibrillator – their contact details could be added to the Emergency Plan with their permission. All residents, visitors and those employed locally could potentially benefit as anyone could have a medical emergency necessitating chest compressions and/or use of a defibrillator.

The Council may spend up to £9.93 per elector, under S137. The number of electors in Willand as at December 2023 was 2,678, making the available spend £26,592.54. The Council pays for defibrillator replacement pads and batteries and has spent £248.23 this year. The only other items of spend under S137 have been donations to charities, for which there is a budget of £360 with £110 spent so far. The Council is therefore well within the permitted spend.

The Council has funds held in Reserves and it is suggested that if approved, the cost should be paid from the Community Facilities Reserve, the current balance of which is £12,677.50.

Ownership & Storage

The defibrillator training aid and manikin set will be owned and insured by the Parish Council and be added to the Asset Register. The equipment will be stored at the Gables Pre-school.

Debbie Bird, Clerk to Willand Parish - 23rd January 2024