

EPSON PRINTER – termination of lease

In April 2017, the Parish Council signed a 5-year lease agreement with Printware (no longer in existence) for a colour laser printer that could do high speed colour printing for thousands of copies in a day.

This was at a time when we had not long (6 months) moved in to the Reading Room with a domestic black and white laser printer (A4 only) that would get very hot after 100 copies. The initial deal for this printer was a lease payment of £513 pa with a next day service turnaround for faults and ink bags that would print 75,000 copies of black and colour copies provided. This was at a time when we were issuing twice yearly newsletters to every house in the parish and the TisPlan consultations were ongoing; although not ever used for high volume TisPlan documents, the number of copies actually made over 44 months was over 45,000 colour and black/white copies.

The lease agreement allowed for a specific number of colour and black/white prints each month at no cost (apart from the paper) – above this was charged per copy. Initially Hewlett Packard (HP) accepted readings taken by the Clerk from the printer (that logs numbers of each type of copy made). However, this was deemed unacceptable longer term, as HP actually wanted to monitor the usage remotely via a link to a desk top computer, left on all the time, that we did not have.

The offer at the time was that the PC could continue to make the lease payments, but there would be no free next day repairs/replacements and we would keep the ink bags (so effectively no further costs except for call-outs at (currently £90/visit) – this was accepted by the PC and a reserve fund (now standing at £1595) was created to cover any subsequent breakdown/replacement costs.

Prior to March 2020, Parish Councillors agreed that a replacement printer could be sourced as the automatic document feeder needed replacement and the necessary spare part (at a cost of c.£500) could not be sourced and was unlikely to become available in the near future (produced in China).

Once the HP printer arrived, just before Covid-lockdown 1, we were actually using both printers to cope with the printing and the lease on the original Epson printer was not relinquished.

Once the Epson printer stopped working, the Engineer was called in November and his report (see link) indicated that it was uneconomic to repair; the Clerk then contacted HP to request details of returning the printer. The following figures show the latest buy-out/return costs:

Midterm Buyout effective 01.05.2021 = £702+VAT.

Midterm Return effective 01.05.2021 = £500.48 + applicable logistic costs (£200-300).

The remaining lease payments amount to £513.

If we paid for a buy-out, then the disposal costs would be £18 (CB SKIPS).

In addition to this note, please also see the following documents:

01.06b. Printware lease agreement – dated April 2017 effective for 5 years

01.06c. Redshank email dated November 2020 – Engineer's visit report

A decision on the way forward is required.