

STATEMENT RE CONDITION OF TELEPHONE BOXES

At the Parish Council meeting dated 10/01/2024, we had a discussion about the use of the phone boxes in the parish and it is unfortunate that this debate now appears to have attracted some mis-informed social media attention.

These phone boxes are considered to be heritage assets and it was the parish council that saved them from removal by BT.

The parish council then renovated all three boxes, to a very reasonable cosmetic and safe standard, using only original K6 specification materials. To repair these assets to a standard that would stand up to frequent or robust use would have required entirely new doors, hinges and closing mechanisms that would have run into several thousands of pounds.

Our intention has always been to continue maintaining the phone boxes, as 'heritage assets' but not to use them as libraries. The reason for this is that the doors would easily become loose and unsafe for parishioners, and sadly this has indeed now become the case for the Seisdon box.

If we now revert back to our original intentions and keep them as 'iconic' visual assets only, the maintenance costs, remembering this is tax payers' money, will remain low.

We're looking at finding another, a more suitable location for a library because we know this service is really valued by parishioners, and we'll update everyone on a safer and cheaper solution as soon as we can.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Trysull & Seisdon Parish Council

