

**Paper for submission to a Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council , Friday 29th May 2026, 7.30pm,
Yatesbury Village Hall, agendum 4777**

The disused red telephone Box, sited outside the Black Horse pub, Cherhill

1. Introduction/Background

This traditional red telephone box (kiosk) has been sited outside the village pub for many decades. It became redundant and in 2013 was sold to Cherhill Parish Council, under BT's 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme, for the standard price of £1. Much more recently it has provisionally revalued by the Parish Council on 23rd April 2026 at £1,545, as at 31st March 2026, in line with the valuation for the other (repurposed) telephone box in Yatesbury village, now used to house a defibrillator. Both telephone boxes however will require a more considered valuing for future auditing purposes. For the purposes of this paper, reference to the Cherhill Telephone Box is to the kiosk on Main Road, Cherhill, and not to the repurposed telephone box at Yatesbury, also in Cherhill parish. It was last discussed by the Parish Council on 23 April 2026, agendum **4758**, but not at length.



2. Recent Proposals by Residents for Repurposing

The telephone box has served no useful purpose since being adopted. Two proposals however have been received in the last year by the Parish Council from local residents:

- **A mini-museum on Cherhill's history** – discussed at 24th July 2025 meeting, agendum **4579**. Still pending but would involve relocation elsewhere in the village.
- **A book exchange** – discussed at 26th March 2025 meeting, agendum **4728**, and now subject to a (successful) community grant application, involving a bespoke wooden cabinet rather than the original suggestion involving the telephone box.

3. Immediate Concerns

- The previous landlady of the public house began in 2025 to clear away weeds and detritus from the box. She contacted the PC's Clerk to indicate that she was minded to take matters further as the box was within the grounds of the pub. She was at the time a tenant of Punch Taverns Ltd who own the freehold of the pub, but that freehold would not include the structure of the telephone box.
- There is concern amongst parish councillors that the box is vulnerable, being in full view of the busy A4 and close to a public house. Consideration is therefore being given to uprooting the box and moving it to a new location for its protection, preferably one that is indoor and lockable.

4. Heritage

- This telephone box/kiosk is the K6 model designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.
- Approximately 60,000 K6s were produced between 1936 and 1967.
- The K6 is the most popular and iconic of 8 different models. There are approximately 11,700 surviving K6 kiosks
- About 2,500 are listed and of all listed telephone boxes around 20% are the K6 type.

5. Vital Statistics and current condition

- Cast iron construction with a timber (teak) door frame and therefore extremely heavy. The K6 is approximately 750 kg, about 13.5 cwt or 1,650 lbs in weight.
- Roughly 8 feet 3 inches tall and 3 feet x 3 feet in girth.
- The telephone equipment was all removed by BT on adoption by the PC in 2013
- As at 22nd May 2026 the box remains in a cosmetically unsightly condition. All the paintwork is peeled, there is one broken glass pane in the door, and weeds and ivy are growing up in and around it. Otherwise it appears to be sound and firmly rooted in the ground (**see attached photographs**).

6. Relocation and transportation

- Moving the telephone box will require specialist transport. The cost would be estimated at £200 to £600, mostly depending on the equipment used. Standard method is to use an HIAB, ie a flat-bed lorry with a built-in crane. Most examples of pricing are around £600 for a move and relocation.ⁱ
- Preparing the site. Before being relocated the box will require a solid, levelled foundation. We would need to ensure there are no overhead obstructions, such as cables or low tree branches and that the ground could safely accommodate almost one metric tonne in weight.
- It is possible to dismantle the box into its components, 3 cast-iron sides, roof, and door for easier transport but more labour would be required.

7. Adoption and Listing.

- BT has confirmed the adoption status from 2013, kiosk reference 01249816503, type K6. However the adoption scheme is for kiosks in their current ie **original**, location. If the kiosk is moved the adoption is not cancelled but the scheme is deliberately location-specific. This is why dialogue with Wiltshire Planning is vital.

- There is no record of the Cherhill box ever having been listed. There is no reference to it on **Historic England's National Heritage List for England**. Most K6 kiosks are not listed. Of the 11,700 surviving K6 kiosks around 2,500 are listed. If listed these are Grade II listings, for structures of '*special architectural or historic interest*'. Grade II listing accounts for 91% of all the UK's listed buildings. If listed, the exterior cannot be painted a different colour to the red, nor can there be any other significant changes. The box is in the grounds of the Black Horse Inn, which itself is listed, Grade II, List Entry Number 1283346.

8. Insurance Cover

- A red telephone box in the UK requires public liability insurance cover. Currently our policy with Zurich Insurance includes public liability up to £12m. Zurich have a copy of our updated List of Fixed Assets, on which the Cherhill box is included. Currently we have cover for street furniture up to £26,870.77.
- Specialist phone box liability insurance can also be obtained, such as from Phone Box Liability Insurance but our cover with Zurich is more than adequate.

9. Permissions that are required.

- Even though the Parish Council owns the physical structure of the box we do not have the right to simply relocate it. Even if not listed this would depend on us obtaining the appropriate planning permission from our unitary authority, Wiltshire Council. Removal or relocation of a telephone kiosk is treated as a 'building operation' as well as a 'material change of use'. This would therefore require a full change of use application. If it had been listed removal of the box would also have required listed building consent.
- If the PC decides to relocate the box then full consultation with Wiltshire Planning should take place in order to establish and agree the exact requirements for our application. Being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), now retitled as a National Landscape, will have a bearing.
- As the box is situated in Cherhill Ward compliance is not required with the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP2).¹ as that plan only covers the 2 wards that were transferred to Cherhill PC from the former Calne Without PC in May 2025. However, Cherhill PC has aspirations for its own Neighbourhood Plan which is expected to draw heavily on features of CCNP2.
- Before moving a box there is always need to verify ownership with BT, which we have now done. If the box was on the public highway (it's not, but it's close to it) we would need permission from Wiltshire Council.
- Although the phone line is already disconnected we must ensure that all utilities are disconnected. Therefore we must check with SEN, the local Distribution Network Operator, that disconnection has already taken place.

10. Likely Costs

- Moving a red telephone box typically costs from £200 to £600, probably at the higher end.
- Preparation of groundworks could range from £2,500 to £5,000.
- The estimated costs of a basic refurbishment, dealing with paintwork and minor reglazing could be £850-£1,500.

¹ A fully 'made' plan and now of legal status as of March 2025. Thus planning applications must be decided only after consideration of the plan.

11. How the PC could legally fund a project

- As Cherhill PC does not, as yet, have a **General Power of Competence**² it must ensure that there is statutory authority for all spending. If a particular statute cannot be identified for a project then there is the so-called 'Power of Last Resort', under s137 Local Government Act 1972. Spending under s137 is lawful if on something that will directly benefit the local community. Spending under this power must be agreed by full council, carefully minuted, and the amounts recorded separately in the accounts. There is a maximum spend under s137 per head of the electorate. Currently. For 2026-27, this is £11.60 per elector. We have 566 registered electors in the parish, thus the maximum we could spend under s137 this year would be £6,565.60.
- A better route, if the PC was to progress matters this year, would be to use existing **CIL funds** but there are restrictions. As such funds arise out of development but spending must be for the direct benefit of the community, such as public transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, sporting and leisure facilities, open green spaces and community centres.³ A mini-museum would fit into this requirement as it would come under 'leisure'. Cherhill PC has unallocated funds from the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** totalling **£6,166.71**. £1,530 of this must be spent this year. I refer to the separate CIL spreadsheet prepared for approval at the 29th May 2026 PC meeting.

12. Conclusion and Recommendations

- Consideration be given to the use of CIL funds for the removal and refurbishment of Cherhill's red telephone box. £1,530 of CIL funds has to be spent this year under the 5-year spending rule. That should be sufficient to pay for removal and basic refurbishment.
- The 2026-27 budget however has no provision for such a project.
- The Parish Council could however legally spend money on an unbudgeted project this financial year provided that it follows strict procedures, under statute⁴, for the 2026-27 budget to be amended. A 'budget virement' would allow the PC to transfer funds under a budget head where there has been, or is, a projected underspend into a new budget head for the proposed project.
- The alternative is to defer planning on such spending to the 2027-28 budget.
- In any event the process for considering providers for the costs of transport, ground preparation and refurbishment must be as outlined in our Standing Orders.⁵

13. Next steps

² Localism Act 2011, ss1-8, provides eligible local councils 'the power to do anything that individuals generally may do', as long as the law is not broken. Thus a council would no longer need to establish that it has a specific power to act.

³ For further details see Planning Act 2009, s216(2) and regulation 59 as amended by The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and 2013.

⁴ There is no specific statute allowing a budget virement but there provision under a delegated framework governed by LGA1972, the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Finance Act 1992. A virement can be agreed by full council but must not cause the overall budget to go into an unlawful deficit.

⁵ Standing Order 18, dealing with Financial Controls and Procurement. As the project will not involve expenditure of £25,000 or more in any aspect there will not be no requirement to observe the terms Public Contracts Regulations 2025 for tendering.

- The telephone box does need protection and therefore removal to a safe and secure location would be the necessary first step. To minimise transport and handling costs this should be to a location where basic refurbishment could take place.
- Thereafter, consideration to be given to the long term repurposing of the telephone box into something that would be of benefit to the community.

P Johnson , Clerk to the Parish Council, May 2026









