

HECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Request for Information Decision

Date of request: 1 April 2026

Date of decision: 9 April 2026

Request:

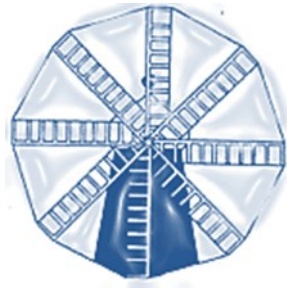
REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

To the clerk of Heckington Parish Council

I have been informed that the scaffolding tower purchased by the Heckington Parish Council to allow staff a safe working environment at the chapel as well as other sites has been disposed as scrap. This tower was inspected by me in May 2024 as part of the annual safety check of equipment and was in excellent working condition. I understand that it was never used after that inspection.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I ask the following questions:-

- 1) On what date was it resolved by Heckington Parish Council to dispose of this very useful and regularly used piece of equipment together with the Council Minutes reference?
- 2) Why was this tower disposed as scrap as similar size towers are sold on public auctions for between £375 and £425?
- 3) Why was the tower not offered for sale on local social media sites as has been the established method of disposing of Parish Council serviceable equipment previously?
- 4) What is the name of the scrap merchant used to dispose of the tower and details of the mandatory receipt number?
- 5) How much did Heckington Parish Council receive in payment for the tower as scrap?



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Decision:

1. There is no formal resolution relating to the disposal of the tower scaffold.

Financial Regulation paragraph 14.5 states:

*'No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, **except where the estimated value or any one item does not exceed £500.***

2. The scaffold tower was disposed of because the Parish Council employee, Mr Ward was not trained to use the equipment and therefore not considered 'competent' to erect or dismantle the tower scaffold.

There were no records of any routine inspections or a risk assessment.

The Tower Scaffold must comply with BS EN 1004-1:2020. There was no evidence or markings on the equipment to indicate it was compliant with British Standards.

The disposal followed health and safety advice due to non-compliance with British Standards.

3. As the equipment was not compliant with British Standards, it was not offered for sale due to concerns surrounding liability.

4. The tower scaffold was disposed of by former Councillor Stanley. The details of the disposal are not known and as Mr Stanley is no longer a member of the Parish Council, this information is not obtainable.

5. The Parish Council received no payment for the scaffold tower.

Your right of appeal:

If you have any queries regarding this decision, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision (within 40 days of this decision notice) you should write to:

Heckington Parish Council, Parish Council Chambers, St Andrews Street, Heckington, NG34 9RE.



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Email address: clerk@heckingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint and the Parish Council's response you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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