

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (2)
	Date	10th September 2024
	Document	Ref No
	Town Hall Storage	MTH2/26

Background

Currently several external groups store items, at their own risk, at the Town Hall with the conditions set as detailed:

- Rural Touring Theatre – Items covered under their own insurance and can be given notice to remove items if needed.
- Neston and District Art Society – Art boards for annual art exhibition, covered on their own insurance.
- Little Actors – Items covered under their own insurance, used during their hire sessions in the Town Hall and available for use by other community groups.
- Neston Players – Staging covered under their own insurance; alternative storage location being sought.

We have also recently agreed to temporarily store 2 double gazebos for the former Parkgate Fest group for a maximum of 2 months, ending 9.10.24, and providing the items are covered under their own insurance. However, we have been informed that insurance under the 'Friends of West Vale Park' group is being arranged.

Implications

Storage space at the Town Hall is very tight due to the fact that that we store the Christmas lights for the Neston Area in our basement together with market gazebos and other items for the Town Council's own use.

Officers have spent time clarifying arrangements and making sure all NTC owned items are covered on our insurance. We are not able to cover items stored by external groups on our insurance.

Further storage

I would suggest that we do not offer storage of any further items for any external groups both due to the lack of storage space and also due to the insurance implications. Where appropriate, groups currently storing items are encouraged to find alternative storage solutions for their items for these reasons in order to free up space at the Town Hall.

It should also be noted that the staging currently being stored in the yard area is covered inadequately with sheeting that has become ripped in places. We have informed Neston Players about this, as we are concerned about damage to the parts that are exposed to the elements, particularly with the amount of rainfall that we have experienced recently. Unfortunately, it cannot be stored inside due to lack of space, plus Neston Players have keys to access stage parts in the yard, as required.

Nicky McMahon

Market & Town Hall Manager