



**Calstock Parish Council**

# **Abandoned Items Policy**

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**2021**

## **Abandoned Items Policy (Boat, Vehicle, Towable and Other Miscellaneous Property)**

### **Purpose**

- To maintain the visual impact of Calstock Parish
- To help keep council land tidy and accessible
- To specifically encourage the active use of the water frontage in Calstock Village for local people and visitors by maintaining access and availability of council-owned moorings.

### **Aim**

To provide a reasonable and transparent approach to deal with items that have been left for a significant amount of time and therefore deemed abandoned which litter Calstock Parish and to minimise the risk of further items being left in a similar state of disrepair.

### **Policy**

The Policy refers to any vehicles, towable items, waterborne craft and other large miscellaneous objects located on Calstock Parish Council owned land or area of responsibility which do not appear to be in active use or have unknown ownership.

The Policy will be invoked when an apparently abandoned object has been identified by parishioners, Parish Council employees or Parish Councillors as not having moved for more than four weeks.

An item may be deemed as being abandoned if it is

- A vehicle (e.g. camper van, van, mobile home, car, motorbike, bicycle etc) left in a car park (or on the roadside) in an unroadworthy condition
- an item such as a trailer which seems to be being stored in car parks or on other pieces of public land that should be left for others to use.
- Any watercraft that is inappropriately moored/stowed

The Parish Council will report items to Cornwall Council if they are not on Parish Council owned land but are causing an obstruction or nuisance on highways, verges and pavements or other shared pieces of land.

When the Parish Council is notified of such an item the Clerks will make reasonable efforts to contact the owner of the abandoned item.

A notice will be placed on the item stating that it has been identified as looking as if it has been abandoned. When in place, the notice will be photographed and filed as evidence that the appropriate notification was made. The photo of the notification will be placed on the Parish Council's website and relevant social media sites. The photograph should show the condition of the item and where it is sited.

The notice will ask the owner to identify themselves by a certain date (*usually* 28 days after the notification).

Identification will be attempted to find the owner of the item – in the case of a waterborne craft the Clerk of the Parish Council will ascertain whether mooring fees have been paid or are due (in the case that they have been paid the mooring agreement will be referenced for compliance of the vessel). In the case of vehicles, Tax and MOT checks will be undertaken.

If, after the above procedure, no contact has been made by the owner to the Parish Council the item will be reported to Cornwall Council for removal under Section 33 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 as fly tipping or - in the case of a vehicle - for removal under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act 2005 Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978; Removal, Storage and Disposal of Vehicles (Prescribed Sums and Charges etc) (Amendment) Regulations 1993.

In the case of items that keep returning after they have previously been issued with a notice, they are likely to have only 7 days to remove the item before it is reported to Cornwall Council. For items that have previously been served a 28 day notice and a 7 day notice, the Parish Council reserves the right to remove the item without prior notice -such a course of action will be decided at the discretion of the Clerk in liaison with relevant ward members and/or the Council Chairman.