

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (1)	
	Date	23 June 2026	
	Document	Ref No	
	Washing Machine	MTH1/11a	

As part of the running of the Town Hall and market there are several items that need washing regularly such as:

- Tea Towels
- Floor steamer scrubbing pads
- Market staff hi vis jackets and vests
- Occasional flags

I have been taking all of these item's home to wash in my own machine.

For a cost comparison I recently had 2 hi vis jackets washed by the local dry cleaners at a total cost of £23.00. If washed 4 times over a year the overall cost, just for 2 of the jackets, would be £92.

Market staff would also like to start a rolling programme of washing NTC owned gazebo back and side panels to improve their appearance, as they currently have black patches of mildew which is not ideal. In dry weather they have been trying to do this by scrubbing and jet washing the panels on the market square at the end of a market day, when time allows. This is very time consuming and not as effective as we would like. Traders have reported good results when washing their own panels, purchased with gazebos from NTC, in their own machines with biological detergent. We have also seen the results of this and feel it is much better than when jet washed.

The purchase of a domestic washing machine, with a 10kg was load weight, would be approximately £330, which is within my delegated authority. We do need to consider that as the Town Hall is not a domestic setting, the warranty may not be valid. I have contacted two large high street retailers who confirmed this, however a smaller local electrical store has indicated that if the warranty was not valid, they would still come out to look at the appliance. They have also recommended that we purchase a well-known brand to hopefully reduce the need to use any warranty. They feel that the machine I hope to purchase is a good quality machine from a well know brand. For information, this machine is the same price, £319, with the big high street stores and the smaller local store.

The purchase of a commercial washing machine with a similar sized wash load would be approximately £1200. However, we would then have a valid 1-year parts & labour warranty.

The consideration would be if the difference in price is acceptable, just to provide a 1-year warranty that may never be used.

Average costs for repairs would be (not including labour):

- call-out and diagnosis fee generally runs from £50 to £90
- Door seal replacement: £50 to £90
- Drain pump replacement: £65 to £110
- Motor brushes: £75 to £100
- Control board replacement: £100 to £180

In a worst-case scenario, to purchase of a replacement new domestic machine would still be less than the initial cost of a commercial machine.

Nicky McMahon
Market & Town Hall Manager