

WPC.23.05.08 – Miscellaneous & Emergency Estates Work

Miscellaneous & Emergency Estates Work

The Estates Committee occasionally commissions work, for example to replace benches on greens, the new railings at the cemetery, installation of new water butts. Whilst this sort of work is often undertaken by councillors, lay members and parish volunteers, it's not always possible to get a working party together in a desirable timescale. Additionally, work may sometimes arise which does need to be completed as a matter of urgency, for example, clearing fallen tree limbs or damaged assets following a storm, or cutting back vegetation which is a safety issue which is unlikely to be addressed within suitable timescales by responsible agencies.

The parish council has a range of powers to carry out works on its parish lands, in the cemetery which include:

- Public Health Act 1875, s.164
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

There is a further ancillary power under Local Government Act 1972, s.111 to do anything that will facilitate, be conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its powers and functions.

The Parish Council approved a proposal to appoint a contractor to undertake ad hoc work within the parish during the previous financial year (RH Landscapes and Maintenance Ltd) and three parish days were undertaken). The scheme has worked well, enabling the parish to keep on top of jobs arising.

In order to ensure that the parish council is able to move forward and instruct any miscellaneous or urgent work as required for the current financial year, the parish council is asked to consider quotes from the remaining parties.

A summary of costs submitted is attached below:

R H Landscapes & Maintenance Ltd	2 staff, vehicles, power tools and hand tools at a cost of £435.00 + VAT per day, any materials would be supplied at a cost plus 5% basis.	£435 plus VAT per day plus materials at cost plus 5%
Town & Country Gardening	£52.50 per hour plus VAT plus materials @trade rates Work would be undertaken in teams of two based on a 7 hour day	£735 plus VAT/day

The costs of the work would be allocated from the following budget lines (dependant on the tasks):

Budget Line	Approved Budget	%	Allocation
Grounds Maintenance (general and parish days)	£1000	100%	£1000
Cemetery and Churchyard	£750	20%	£150
Greens	£500	20%	£100
Six Acres	£500	20%	£100
Tree Surgery	£750	20%	£150
		Total	£1500

This would be sufficient to instruct up to 3 days per year at £435 per day, or 2 days a year at £735 per day.

Recommendation:

To appoint a contractor to undertake ad hoc work within the parish at a cost of not more than £1500 plus VAT for the financial year 2023.24.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
May 2023