

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 three financial years (RH Landscapes and Maintenance Ltd) and seven parish days were undertaken in total over the past three years). 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 received, attached as Appendix A.

A summary of costs submitted is attached below:

Powers:

Local Government Act 1972, s.214(2) - Power to provide and maintain cemeteries in or outside the council's area.

Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 - Power to provide and maintain open space or burial ground in or outside the council's area.

Public Health Act 1875, s.164

- Power to provide and maintain land for public recreation.
 - Power to provide and manage recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces.
- Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 - Power to provide and maintain land for open spaces in or outside of the council's area.

Funding:

Grounds Maintenance (general) - £1100

There are on occasion costs for materials, which would be authorised separately under the relevant budget line.

Recommendation:

To appoint a contractor to undertake ad hoc work within the parish at a cost of not more than £1100 plus VAT for the financial year 2025.26.