



Assets, Community and Environment Committee

Date: 17th February 2022

ACE028: Quotes to Purchase Four New Items of Garden Machinery

1. Introduction

We currently have a need to purchase several items of garden machinery, to ensure that our grounds maintenance work can be accomplished as efficiently as possible. Specifically, we wish to replace three items (ride-on mower, leaf blower and bowser) and purchase one new item (a chipper/shredder).

2. Detail

2.1 Ride-on mower

Due to the high cost of repairs recommended for the ride of mower on top of the repairs already completed during the summer of 2021, we sought the advice of a local garden machinery specialist who informed us that the existing mower - which has been used at the churchyard for the last four years - is not the right machine for the job. It is better suited to domestic use – not for cutting grass in a cemetery on a daily basis throughout the year. A zero-turn mower is far more manoeuvrable than a conventional mower and therefore much better suited to mowing around obstacles (graves), and is the type used in many other cemeteries..

Whilst John Deere mowers are generally viewed as the best in the business, they are also expensive. I have included one in the list for comparison purposes.

The proposed new machine is also commercial grade which should mean that running costs will be significantly reduced and comes with a four year warranty. Additionally, we have been offered a trade-in deal against our current ride-on to further reduce our outlay.

2.2 Leaf blower

The leaf blower used until recently at the churchyard is very old and has ceased to work. This would be a simple replacement and the model proposed is the same as we are currently using at Horsefield Green. In a recent review pyracantha.co.uk rated the six best backpack leaf blowers in the UK. The Makita EB7660TH came first, but it rated the STIGA SBP375 as “*a slightly more affordable alternative to our best pick by Makita*”. Given that this is the model we already own, it would seem to make sense for the sake of homogeneity to go with the STIGA model.

2.3 Bowser/Waterer

The existing bowser has been problematic over the last couple of years, specifically difficulties charging the battery which powers the pump have been experienced. It has proved impossible to repair the issue and as the age of the bowser is unknown it's proposed a replacement is purchased.

The proposed replacement (Model: HBWP - 50 litre capacity) is a smaller version of the current bowser (THBW - 70 litre), but will, I believe, be adequate for our needs in watering the High Street hanging baskets during the summer. A like-for-like 70 litre capacity replacement would cost £1,191 – an additional £604.

2.4 Chipper

We have determined that the acquisition of a chipper to deal with the back log of green waste in the bonfire field which has accumulated over the past year or so would be extremely beneficial and will also enable us to dispose of future cuttings with ease.

Usually, we would have bonfires to prevent waste matter building up, but with COVID considerations and air quality being an issue we haven't had that opportunity for the last couple of years. A chipper would offer us a big advantage in disposing of large quantities of green waste on site and cleanly.

These chippings are easily scattered and break down naturally over time and pollution is minimal (unlike bonfires). The chipper would be able to chip fresh waste but not older drier branches as the density is different (once the pile in the bonfire field has been cleared, we can manage future waste more efficiently).

A chipper capable of drawing in and chipping branches up to 4" (10 cm) in diameter would be ideal. It should also be mobile and able to handle both hard, woody material and soft, leafy matter and be suitable for professional use.

Chippers of this specification (ie. designated for professional or semi-professional use) are of course dearer than standard garden chipper/shredders. The cost of hiring such a machine is around £80 – 100, so it would be reasonable to conclude that an investment of £1,500 would be recouped after about 15 uses. Additionally we would have the convenience of being able to use the machine when required, avoiding the need to arrange delivery and return with the likely associated delays.

3. Storage

We believe that there will be sufficient storage space available in the container at the cemetery. With the potential removal of the existing ride-on mower (in part exchange) and disposal of the old leaf blower, and after some clearing out of items currently kept there which has recently been effected, there will be sufficient space to store the new items needed at the churchyard. The bowser will be stored in the container behind the Queen's Hall in place of the current one.

4. Costs

Equipment	Model	Costs (Net)
Ride-on Mower	Kubota Z122R *	3,635
	HUSQVARNA Z242F	3,329
	John Deere Z335E Ztrak	3,837
Leaf Blower	Stiga SBP 375	332.50
	MAKITA EB7660TH	339
Bowser	Trolley Mounted Waterer - Ref HBWP **	490 + 60 shipping
	Trolley Mounted Waterer - Ref THBW	993 + 60 shipping
Chipper	Hyundai HYCH1500E-2	1,333
	LAWNFLITE GTS900L V3	2,062

Notes:

* This price takes account of a £415 part exchange offered for our STIGA mower (full retail price is £4,050).

** This price is without the telescopic lance. The lance we have currently can be used.

5. Recommendations

All of the items listed in the table above would, we believe, be worthy additions to the equipment held by the Parish Council. The following items are recommended for purchase:

Ride-on Mower	Kubota Z122R *	3,635
Leaf Blower	Stiga SBP 375	332.50
Bowser	Trolley Mounted Waterer - Ref HBWP **	490 + 60 shipping
Chipper	Hyundai HYCH1500E-2	1,333
	Total	£5,850.50

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