

## **West Rainton Parish Council – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Agenda Item - 12**

#### **Report of Parish Clerk – Cemetery Waste Disposal Contract**

West Rainton Parish Council currently contracts with Max Recycle for the disposal of the waste from West Rainton Cemetery. The Contract that is in place expires on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 although the terms of the contract mean that it will automatically renew for the initial term entered into rather than expire. Whilst a copy of the contract is not readily available it is believed to be a 3 year contract.

The service is the provision of a 1100 litre wheeled bin that is emptied on a weekly basis.

Costings for the contract: £1672.04 per annum.

The current contract requires acknowledged written notice to be received no more than six months and no less than three months before the anniversary date of the contract. This would mean that if the Parish Council wanted to terminate the contract it would be need to be done between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

In reviewing the contractual arrangements the service provision has been of an acceptable level throughout the period of the contract. On one occasion collections were delayed as a result of an unpaid invoice that was wrongly addressed by the Company.

With a view to ensuring best value has been considered, approaches have been made to other local Parish Councils within County Durham with a view to investigating alternatives to the current contractor.

It became apparent that the majority of respondents contracted with Durham County Council for their cemetery waste contracts.

Subsequent enquiries with Durham County Council Trade Waste Team have been made and a like for like quotation has been received.

The cost for 1 x 1100L refuse collected weekly is £811per annum (DCC do not charge VAT).

There are no upfront costs for the Unit and no minimum contract period. If the contract is cancelled, 1 month written notice is required along with a £20 cancellation fee.

It should be noted that the prices are 2018/19 prices for information only and there would be an inflationary uplift for 2019/20 contracts.

At the current rates the DCC Contract represents a saving of £861.04 which is almost a 50% saving.

Parish Council financial regulations state that for services under £60,000 the Council should strive to obtain 3 quotations. This may be difficult as contractors may be limited.

Parish Council is asked to consider the following options and agree a preferred option:

1. Take no action and allow the current contract to renew
2. Give notice on the existing contract and strive to obtain 3 quotations to be brought back to the October Meeting of the Parish Council for a decision.
3. Opt to Contract with Durham County Council based on the quote received.

M Ramshaw  
14/9/2018