

WEST RAINTON & LEAMSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 16 JANUARY 2020

AGENDA ITEM 11 Cemetery Development:

A. CONTRACT

The current Cemetery maintenance contract is for 12 months and comes to an end 31/3/2020. The Contract does however have an option to extend for a further 12 months.

The current contractor, Special Branch Tree Services has delivered the contract as expected and is currently working on winter maintenance which includes trimming of bushes/trees and the ongoing treatment of the moss on the paths.

Feedback has been positive with regards to the Cemetery appearance. The Contractor has also engaged in additional work (at additional cost) which has included tree felling, ground levelling and seeding, older grave maintenance and also fencing to create a compound for any equipment and land spoils.

The Contractor has expressed a willingness to contract for a further 12 months at the 2019/20 contract price of £3084.00 plus VAT.

Recommendation: Parish Council approve the 12 month extension of the current contract at the current rate of £3084.00 plus VAT

B. IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Parish Council is asked to consider two further improvements to the Cemetery.

The first is the area of land adjacent to the new compound area. The area is overgrown and uneven with very little grass. In order to improve this area of the Cemetery a quotation has been received from the current Contractor.

The quotation is to clear the area and level it using a mini-digger and prepare the ground for seeding utilising a rotavator. The area would then be seeded. The quotation £1000 plus VAT.

Recommendation: Parish Council is asked to approve the work.

The second improvement is a change to the way new graves are managed. Currently graves are topped up with the original spoils as the graves settle, on an ad-hoc basis by the grave digger. This is difficult to manage and the results are a number of graves that are not level.

This proposal is for new graves to be managed by the current contractor. They would be topped up with top soil over a period of months while settling. This gives an improved visual appearance initially. Once settled the graves would then be turfed by the contractor. The regular visits of the contractor would allow the checks and works to take place. This would be at a cost of £40 plus VAT per grave.

Recommendation: Parish Council is asked to approve this approach.

M Ramshaw

9/1/2020