

Village Grounds Maintenance

Parish Council is ask to noted the following current issues and consider proposed action to address.

1. Heritage Garden – Annual Maintenance Contract Value £1671

- Current contractor, AB, behind work schedule for year.
- Not responding to tel. calls/texts/voicemails so not able to discuss/progress
- Initial performance was good, but increasing in recent years appears to have a bit complacent and performance has suffered
- Certain aspects of the maintenance need doing now and /or throughout the summer months to keep it looking neat and tidy there is no assurance that this will be undertaken

Proposed Action:

That the Parish Clerk writes to AB formally advising him of the Parish Councils concerns regarding his availability to carry out work in accordance within required timescale and lack of communication. He should be asked to confirm, by a specified date, when and how this will be addressed.

Delegated authority be given to the Chair/Vice Chair, in consultation with the Clerk, to pursue other options for maintenance for the remainder of the year, if unsatisfactory responses are not forthcoming from AB.

2. Parish Planting Plan - New Planters

- A revised quote from Marmax Products for the new village planters (15 in total) has been obtained following the decision at the last meeting to locate one of the existing large black planters at Finchale View and purchase an additional new one. The cost is £5173.20 (£4311.11 plus VAT £ 862.80).
- This is to be partly funded from Hargreaves Grant Funding, DCC Neighbourhood Grant funding of £500, with balance of approximately £3000 being funded by PC as previously agreed.
- In order to ensure delivery in time for Autumn Planting, the supplier has advised that the order should be made asap so that this can be booked into the production schedule, but no later than 6 weeks before required delivery. Autumn delivery considered necessary as some of the existing tubs unlikely to survive other the winter and grant funding needs to be spent this year.
- AB had been asked, initially in Nov, to supply a quote for planting the new proposed planters, and the existing black planters, that are to be

retained, and as he had suggested, placing flagstones under all planters to be located on grass. This quotation was required so that consideration could be given to the annual maintenance costs of all planters going forward before the order was placed for the new planters. This quotation is still awaited and there is no assurance that AB would be able to undertake the work when required. The estimated cost of the bi-annually planting all tubs (23) based on AB's last annual cost, is £1,800 per annum.

- DCC have agreed to move existing black planters to new locations, but no date has yet been given for this. This is likely to be other the winter months when the Clean and Green Teams are less busy (Oct to Feb). As yet, there is no assurance that this can be done to allow relocation to happen before we need to take delivery of the new planters and put in situ.
- Timing of the various actions required is therefore an issue. As is where and when delivery should be made, especially without AB's quote and some assurance that he can do the necessary work when required.

Proposed Action:

The Parish Clerk writes to AB, to give him a final chance to submit required quotation and seek assurance that the work could be undertaken when required.

Delegated authority be given to the Chair/Vice Chair, in consultation with the Clerk, to consider and approve other options for planting of tubs and laying of flagstones to achieve winter bedding planting , following liaison with DCC regarding timings, if no satisfactory response received by AB by the end of the month.

Subject, to agreement of the above, an order be placed with Marmax, as per their quotation above, no later than mid August with an expected delivery date of early October. (N/B Delivery address needs confirming).

3. Maintenance of Registered Village Greens

- DCC cut grass but don't strimm; some areas well overgrown, e.g. green next to Italian Farmhouse. In previous years the AB has been asked to strim these, on and ad hoc basis, at the hourly rate provision with the HG contract of £15 per hour. Given current availability concerns, it's unlikely this is now an option.
- Tress and shrubs on village greens aren't maintained by DCC. Some are considerably overgrown and need pruning back – say twice yearly. There are no arrangements in place for this work to be undertaken.

Proposed Action:

Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Contractor is asked to:

Quote for strimming round village green areas,,once a month up to late October/Nov and delegated authority is given to Chair/Vice Chair, in consultation with Clerk, to approve.

To carry out a review of trees and shrubs on village green and propose and quote for an appropriate annual maintenance programme. Delegated authority is given to Chair/Vice, in consultation with the Clerk, to approve any urgent work identified.

4. Benridge Bank

- As agreed at the last meeting, DCC have been asked to seed up Benridge Bank where they had sprayed in error, in preference to the sowing of wild seeds, proposed by DCC, following concerns raised by the Green Group. DCC have agreed to do this , but will not maintain thereafter with regular strimming; the Parish Council will need to accept responsibility for this. Monthly strimming is considered adequate.

Proposed Action:

Cemetery maintenance contractor be asked to quote for strimming this area monthly, when grass established, up to late October/Nov and delegated authority be given to Chair/Vice Chair, in consultation with Clerk, to approve.

Cllr Haddick, Cllr Wallage
July 2020