

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 15 December 2021

Title: Cemetery Grass Cutting Contract

Purpose of Report

Members to consider whether to go to tender for a new grass cutting contract for the cemetery or to bring the grass cutting back in-house to be done by the grounds staff.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to bring the grass cutting at the cemetery back in-house to be carried out by the Town Council's grounds staff.

Report:

1. A few years ago, the grass cutting of the cemetery was completed by the Town Council Wardens. After losing staff, a contract was made with South Somerset District Council for a year, and this was then followed by a two-year contract with Willoway Landscaping Services.
2. The current grass cutting contract for the cemetery is approximately £400 per month and is due to finish at the end of March 2022.
3. The scope of the work in the current contract comprises:
 - To cut the grass 18 times per year:
 - 2 cuts per month from April to October
 - 2 cuts in the period November to December
 - 2 cuts in the period Jan to March
 - To clear and remove all cuttings
 - To brush or blow any loose grass off headstones and kerbstones
 - To agree a schedule of visits in advance and give as much notice as possible of any changes (eg. due to weather)
4. The Countryside Manager had already discussed this idea with the team as they will have spare capacity to be able to cover this particularly during the summer months.
5. At this stage, the grounds team would not require any more equipment to carry out the work.

**Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
December 2021**