

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; LEISURE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>16 JULY 2020</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8(i)</b>
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

### **QUOTES IN RELATION TO REPLACEMENT SIT AND RIDE MOWER**

#### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide Members of the Environment & Leisure Committee with three quotes in respect of the purchase of a replacement sit and ride mower, in line with the Council's financial regulations.

#### **Detailed Information**

Members will recall that a sum of £4,500 was placed in the 2020/21 budget as a special project, for the purpose of purchasing a replacement sit and ride mower for use in the cemetery.

Prior to lockdown the Cemetery Groundsman had arranged for several companies to visit the cemetery with various sit and ride mowers for him to test to establish which mowers were best suited to the conditions of the cemetery. Unfortunately, one of the companies had to postpone due to the lockdown and along with the other suppliers their businesses were closed, with staff furloughed until such time the government eased lockdown restrictions.

Following the easing of some lockdown restrictions the Groundsman has been back in touch with the companies and is waiting on quotes for the machine that he feels is best suited to the conditions in the cemetery. It is hoped that these quotes will be available for Members to consider at the meeting, so that a recommendation can be made to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee that funds be released for the purchase of a new mower.

#### **Financial Implications**

As mentioned above a sum of £4,500 was placed in the 2020/21 budget for the purchase of a new sit and ride mower for use in the cemetery. Unfortunately, following tests on a variety of mowers it is likely that a mower suitable for use in the cemetery will be in the region of £6,500, which is an additional cost of circa £2,000 to that budgeted. The reason for this is due to the tight turns around areas within the cemetery and the need to consider power steering and zero turn options and the demand for such machines is less than that of a standard machine.

At the time of writing the report the best price for the preferred mower was £6,650 (inclusive of VAT).

If the committee agree to the purchase the preferred mower, the Clerk has identified that the additional cost of the mower could be taken from cost centre 102 nominal code 4000 (Cemetery staff salaries) as the new groundsman has not been recruited as yet, due to the pandemic.

### **Recommendation**

That subject to the third quote being received prior to the meeting, Members of the Environment & Leisure Committee agree to the purchase of the Husqvarna R316TsX AWD 112 cm deck mower at a cost of £6,650 with a recommendation to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee that the funds placed in the Special Projects budget for 2020/21 in the total of £4,500 be approved for expenditure, and that the additional cost of £2,120 be taken from Cost Centre 102, Nominal Code 4000 (Cemetery staff salaries).