

St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Report #11.2

Renewal of Grass cutting Contract

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To invite the council to award a 2-year contract for the grass cutting at the three locations within the parish.

2. Background

- 2.1 The grass cutting contract with the present contractor has come to an end. The three locations for which the council requires grass cutting are the Chippenham Road playing field, the Rodbourne Road playing field and the small triangular plot of land at the junction of the Foxley and Common Roads.
- 2.2 Previously the council awarded the contract on an annual basis but in 2022 it agreed to offer a 2-year arrangement. It is proposed to continue with this 2-year arrangement, although it may wish to consider introducing a 'probationary' period of six months to confirm that the service is being delivered as agreed.
- 2.3 It is important that this service is carried out by the contractor at the agreed times. Hitherto this has been one cut per month from April to November inclusive, hence 8 cuts/year. It is proposed to increase the frequency of cuts by an additional monthly cut during the months May to August at the two playing field locations to ensure the grass is kept at a reasonable height for outdoor activities; this will result in 12 cuts/year at each location. It is proposed to continue with 8 cuts per year at the Foxley/Common Roads site.
- 2.4 The selected contractor must be able to deliver the required level of service at the agreed times because failure to do so can attract criticism from residents using these recreational facilities. During the past two years there has been an increasing number of occasions when this has not happened and complaints have been received from residents which reflect adversely on the council.

3. Options

- 3.1 Not to award a grass cutting contract.
- 3.2 To select a contractor from the two companies identified in the appendix.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The council has/will make financial provision for this service in its budgets for the next two years.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The council is recommended to support Option 3.2.