

## Agenda Item 10

### **New Tool Requirements:**

The increase in outside maintenance of Council owned open spaces means that over the last few years the Councils tool requirements have evolved. The Handymen have more pruning and cutting back work particularly to areas such as Broadway, Holmefield House, Hilltop and Dicky Nook. The Council currently has a two-stroke hedge trimmer and chainsaw, the petrol hedge trimmer was purchased in 2014 and has reached the end of its useful life with the chainsaw being 5 years old. The height of shrubbery that the council needs to deal with means that the current hedge trimmer has limited applications without the use of step ladders.

To speed up the work process and preclude the use of step ladders most organisations use pole trimmers and pole pruning chainsaws. The Clerk has look at the two options two-stroke petrol and battery and the costs are similar; the Clerk feels the advantages of the battery system outweigh the petrol driven system in the following ways:

1. Quieter operation in built up areas.
2. Lighter weight equipment
3. Multifunction base unit with interchangeable application.
4. The Council currently uses a number of battery tools and the batteries will be interchangeable.
5. No storing or buying petrol or two stroke oil.

The benefits to the environment should also be considered and these would include:

1. Reduction in co<sup>2</sup> emissions from burning fossil fuels.
2. Reduction in other pollution particulates released into the atmosphere.
3. Reduction in noise.
4. Reduction in the Councils carbon footprint.

The cost of the necessary equipment is £1203.66 + vat the main expense is the 4 10ah batteries but these are capable of running all the range of tools either singly or in tandem for more powerful equipment. The batteries can be used with existing Council equipment and any future equipment needs. The cost of bare units (without battery or charger is significantly lower than comparable petrol or mains electric powered tools.

### **Funding:**

The Council has adequate funding within the tool and new equipment budget to purchase the equipment needed and the required items are currently in stock and are needed as autumn maintenance work begins..