

Agenda Item 10

Mowing Machine Requirements:

The parish Council currently has a John Deere push mower with a 18inch cut which was adequate for mowing the grass at Pasture Lane but the acquisition of Holmefield House with its sizable grounds, the devolvement of pieces of land that need grass maintenance and the potential for further devolvement of Pendle land means that in future the Parish Council needs to be able to carry out these maintenance works in a cost effective manner and will need the right equipment to do this.

The Clerk has spoken to Mr. Higson parks manager at Pendle regarding the type of mowers used by local authorities and he said that Pendle uses mainly John Deere 1445 Out Front Mowers as they are robust simple to operate and cost effective to run. The Clerk has spoken to Balmers GM with regards to the cost of these machines both new and used.

Entry Level:	The prices start at around £5500 for 15-20 year old mower, these are fully serviced prior to delivery.
Intermediate Level:	Start at around £10,500 and are of the latest model but are up to eight years old these are fully serviced and have a 3 months warranty.
New:	The 1445 model has been superseded by the 1570 model the new cost is £16,800 with an additional cost of either £200 for a flashing light or £1000 for full road lights and indicators new mowers come with a 2 year warrant.

As can be seen from the above table the working life expectancy of these machines can exceed twenty years if well maintained with low depreciation values. The only difficulty with ex local authority equipment on machinery that only record hours use are was it well maintained by that local authority and was it abused in use. The only way to guarantee previous service is to buy new where possible.

A new mower given that it would not see the amount of service that larger local authority mowers see would probably last for over 10years and still retain some trade in value.

Operating Costs: The Clerk has investigated the potential running costs and these can be broken down into three areas, insurance, servicing and day to day running costs.

Insurance: The Council's insurance provider estimates that insurance for the vehicle both on and off the road would be around £600-650.00 per year

Servicing: Balmers GM give an estimate of around £700 per year for local authorities but this would be less due lesser use.

Running Costs: These machines are eligible to run on Agency Diesel (Red) which cost between 62-70p per litre, mowing machines are exempt from road tax.

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Funding Options:

Outside Grants: A grant application should be submitted to the BWPAC for part of the cost of the mower as the prime need is due to current and potential future devolvement of borough functions to parish and town councils. The remainder of the cost could be met from the Councils own funds as matched funding in any grant applications.

Recommendations:

That the GP Committee recommends to the Full Council:

1. Approves the purchase a new mowing machine.
2. That Barrowford Parish Council submits a grant application to the BWPAC for £5,000 towards the purchase of a mowing machine.
3. That Barrowford Parish Council approves to pay the difference between the any grant funding and the cost of the mowing machine.
4. That £2,000 is included in the budget for insurance, maintenance and running costs.
5. That training be offered to the lead handyman on operating the mower.