

Report on Oxfordshire County Council contract with Parish Council for verge grass cutting in Weston on the Green village - 2nd December 2020

Resolution:

To discuss and agree for Parish Council to enter into a contract with Oxfordshire County Council to undertake annual cutting of grass verges, within the village gate boundaries, for the sum of £2,206.82 for FY 2021/22, excluding VAT.

Outline:

Weston on the Green Parish Council has been offered the option to enter into a contract with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to cut the grass on the verges located within the village gates.

Two maps are attached to reflect the areas that would fall under the responsibility of the Parish Council. The areas of verge grass cutting within the village gates have been measured by Oxfordshire County Council and the amount the Parish Council would be paid by OCC has been calculated as £2,206.82.

Key points to note within the documents:

- OCC will pay Weston on the Green Parish Council **£2,206.82** (exclusive of VAT, single annual payment in advance).
- A new agreement would begin in April 2021 and there will be an annual review of rates of payment by the County Council.
- If agreement is terminated part way through a year a pro rata refund to OCC will be required
- Grass to be cut no less than twice a year (late spring and autumn).
- Visibility splays at road junctions to be maintained in a safe manner (rule is at least 1m back from kerb).
- Notification of works required to OCC.
- Risk Assessment to be carried out (will check with Oxford Edens on this).
- Personal protective equipment to be worn, equipment checks and training required etc (will highlight this with Oxford Edens).
- Public liability insurance document from Oxford Edens.
- Parish Council to inform its insurers of agreement with OCC and to maintain insurance cover with a reputable company to include public liability insurance to minimum sum of ten million pounds. The Parish Council's insurance is currently via a reputable company (Came & Company) and we have public liability insurance cover to ten million pounds.

Budget:

- This year we have currently spent £1,430 on grass cutting by Oxford Edens in the village. This included B430 verge cutting, Bletchingdon Road verge, Bletchingdon Road bollards by white gates, playground, Ben Jonson & Stocks areas. Note: Southfield housing developers have been cutting B430 verge from Oak View to the village gates this summer; the Council undertook one cut at the start of the season.
- The figure of £2,206.82 from OCC has been assumed in the draft budget income for 2021-22 (this will be amended subject to the Council's decision). Expenditure is budgeted slightly higher at £2,500 to ensure any additional areas are covered e.g. ensuring safety bollards by stream are clear on Bletchingdon Road.