

Council October 2022

Item 10 Grass Cutting in the Parish

10.1 Recommendation from Finance Committee – next 3 year contract for cutting of grass on parish council land.

At its March 2022 meeting, Finance Committee agreed the specification to go out for quotes for the grass cutting contract of parish council land 2023-2025 growing seasons (spec at end of this document – Appendix1).

The Clerks attempted to obtain quotes from multiple suppliers and three provided quotes (in no particular order): Landscape Services, Countrymans and Gardens of England. Web links were provided to Finance Committee members so that they could look at the contractors should they wish, and raise any comments/queries about them.

Quotes provided were as follows (in order of amount quoted):

Contractor 1 – Year 1 £8477.26, Year 2 £8731.52, Year 3 £8906.09 + VAT

Contractor 2 – £9,110 + VAT

Contractor 3 - £14,807.50 + VAT

As this is for the next financial year and the two after, the budget line would be set according to the quote from the contractor agreed for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Having considered the 3 quotes, Finance Committee agreed to recommend to Council Contractor 1. The Committee noted that since going out for quotes the spec for the Newton Willows verge had changed, for it to become a wild verge. The Clerk would notify the chosen contractor.

The grass cutting at the Tanyard was queried as Groombridge Sports Ground has recently registered with Companies House and it would be helpful to find out what funds they have. Cllr Anderson would request that information.

Council is asked to agree awarding the contract to Contractor 1 with a revised spec for Newton Willows as a wild verge, and once costs are clarified at the Tanyard.

10.2. 2023/24 Urban Grass Cutting (ES Highways)

I am writing in relation to the urban grass cutting service for 2023. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year and would be grateful if you could let us know which option your Council would like to choose for next year.

Grass Cutting Maps

You can now access the [grass cutting maps online here](#), please scroll in on the map until the grass loads. This map is being continually updated and validated by our asset team and they welcome any feedback through the contact us button within the link.

Please be advised, the m2 for Urban has been validated for this year and the allocated amounts confirmed as below. Any changes to the map will affect the allocated amounts for the following year. All Parish/Town Councils receive the same amount per each m2.

Options

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 - Extra cuts: Parish Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish Council a total of £976 for the year.

Option 3 - Self delivery: Parish Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish Council the sum of £488 to do this.

It should be noted that any contractor employed must be suitably competent and qualified to work safely on the highway. We also request an agreement to be signed between ESCC and the Parish Council if you opt to self-deliver. Further details are available in the attached document.

I would be grateful if you could indicate which option your Council would like to choose by **16th December**. Please be aware that if we have not heard back by this date, we will default to Option 1 - two standard cuts.

Self delivery information...

When employing a contractor to carry out verge cutting on the highway you must satisfy yourselves of their competence.

Any individual carrying out works on the highway (including grass verges) must comply with all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the [Highways Act, 1980](#) and the [New Roads and Streetworks Act \(NRSWA\), 1991](#).

They must also be trained and competent as required by the [Safety at Streetworks and Roadworks Code of Practice, 2013](#). This includes training in traffic management as well as the use of machinery.

Further information on [Street Works qualifications](#).

Grass cutting maps:

<https://escc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5c524023058c4aa088a37b49b0d90814>

Appendix 1 – Spec for 3 year grass cutting of parish council land

PARISH GRASS-CUTTING SPECIFICATION 2023-2025

Groombridge Recreation Ground (closest postcode TN3 9QX)

Description	Occasions	Price
Gang mow entire recreation ground	18	
Hand mow and strim fence line up to Guide Hut	2	
Hand mow & strim around Guide Hut, play area and in/around lime trees	7	
Cut vegetation between footpath (through trees adjacent to road) and recreation ground	2	
Strim outside edges	2	
Total		£



Newton Willows, Groombridge (closest postcode TN3 9RD)

Description	Occasions	Price
Hand mow and strim grass area between Station Road and Newton Willows	18	
Total		£



(area with 'shelter' written across it)

The Tanyard, Groombridge (closest postcode TN3 9PP)

Description	Occasions	Price
Gang mowing of sports ground	21	
Total		£



Balls Green Community Space (closest postcode TN7 4BU)

Description	Occasions	Price
Grass cutting	14	
Grass cutting of verge on access drive	14	
Total		£



St John's Reading Room, Crowborough (closest postcode TN6 1SB)

Description	Occasions	Price
Mow all area shown on plan	2	
Total		£



Teasley Mead recreation Ground, Blackham (Close by postcode TN3 9TT)

Description	Occasions	Price
Triple mow	14	
	Total	£

