

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
4 June 2019**

LJ/2019

20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CEMETERY GROUND LANDSCAPING WORKS

**AIM**

1. *To approve expenditure to re-landscape an area of the cemetery to make it suitable to use for burials.*

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Bridgnorth cemetery has a very limited number of burial plots available.
3. The topography of the land current cemetery means there are very few relatively flat areas suitable for burials.
4. The Council is looking to purchase additional land to provide additional interment space; however, that will not be available for at least a further 12 months (if all).

**DISCUSSION/ COMMENT**

5. The Outdoor and Property Manager has discussed the possibility of terracing a small part of the cemetery. The location is currently too steep and uneven to allow burials to take place. It is likely that the area of land identified could be landscaped into 3 terraces and provides some 40 - 50 burial plots.
6. While the Town Council has a small excavator that could carry out the work over a lengthy period this would have to be done between other routine tasks. Engaging a contractor to carry out the mechanical digging works required would mean the work could be completed quickly and the burial space useable sooner (by using a large bulldozer than the Council has and having a more highly skilled operator).
7. Suitability of the ground and exactly what can be achieved can only be assessed as the project progresses (we have an idea of what lies beneath the top layer of soil but cannot be sure).
8. We have obtained a quote for some initial works:
  - a. Hire of Bulldozer & Driver per 8 hour day based on a 5 Day week to create platforms for graves - £2,000 + VAT
  - b. Diesel (Per 5 Day Hire) - £500.00 + VAT
  - c. Transport - £50.00 + VAT Each Way

**TOTAL £2,600**

9. We have some experience in renting plant equipment and the quote is considered to be 'not unreasonable'. The quote is from a contractor who has done much work for the Council in the past and has some familiarity with the cemetery.

10. There will be additional costs but these are difficult to put a total on until the mechanical landscaping has been undertaken potential additional costs might include:

- a. Creating steps/ pathways
- b. Installing hand rails
- c. Sleepers to reinforce terraces (to avoid land slippage)
- d. Re-seeding.

A small contingency would need to be included to provide for the unexpected. A total budget of £6k should be sufficient.

## FINANCIALS

11. It is considered that ground works to increase cemetery capacity is a suitable spend of CIL money.
12. It is likely that Town Council's 'CIL Earmarked Fund' which currently has a balance of £8,315 is sufficient to fund the project.
13. The hire element of a bulldozer and driver does not have 3 quotes. (it is not unreasonable to consider waiving that requirement for 3 quotes to enable the works to be completed promptly).

## SUMMARY

14. The Council needs to create more land within the current cemetery to provide for burials.
15. Employing an external contractor to reconfigure the ground in an area of the cemetery would address that issue promptly without detracting from routing work of the grounds staff.
16. A local, competent contractor has quoted a reasonable price for the initial mechanical ground works (day rate).
17. Some additional funding (circa £3k required) for contingency and making good the area.
18. The total project is likely to cost up to £6k and funding is available from the CIL Earmarked Fund.

## RECOMMENDATION

19. It is recommended that the Town Council RESOLVES:

**To delegate to the outdoor and properties manager the task of re-landscaping an area of the cemetery to make it suitable to use for burials. (with funding be drawn from the CIL Earmarked Fund and the mechanical ground works element single quote being accepted).**



Lee Jakeman  
Town Clerk