

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	20 July 2021
Title:	Cut & Collect Mower
Contact Officer:	Andrea Oughton, Asset Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree to lease or purchase a new mower with the facility to 'cut and collect'.

Background

2. In spring this year, the Town Council agreed to change the grass cutting regime on identified sites within the parish to cultivate greener / wildflower meadow areas. Grass cuts on these sites will take place twice a year in March and September (exact dates being weather dependent).
3. This is a joint project with members of Thame Green Living, signage has been placed on majority of the sites explaining the change in management and encouraging people to get involved.
4. For wilding areas to flourish, the arisings from both the spring and late summer cuts need to be removed from site. The Town Council do not have a mower with this capability.
5. A demonstration of an Iseki SXG 326+ ride on cut and collect mower was arranged following discussions with Chesham Town Council, who undertook a similar 'greening / wilding' project four years ago. Chesham Town Council had tested several models and found the Iseki to be the best machine to undertake the work required.
6. The mower will be used to cut other grassed areas in the town, and when required can provide a pristine cut.

Quotations

7. Three quotations have been obtained to either lease or purchase a machine:

Machine	Description	Purchase Price	Lease Price
Iseki SXG 326+	Ride on, cut and collect mower complete with 22hp 3-cylinder diesel engine, 2-wheel drive, power steering 48" rear discharge cutting deck and 600L high dump collector. Two-year standard warranty.	Retail Price: £16,870.00 Discount price: £12,700.00	
Iseki SXG 326+	Details as above, supplied on a contract hire basis to include full service package and an extended warranty. (Contract hire does not include any fair wear and tear items such as tyres, greaseable items or damage). Contract hire includes usage of 250 hours per year. 36 x monthly payments of:		£323.50

	48 x monthly payments of:		£296.75
John Deere X950R	Ride on, cut and collect mower, 25.2hp 3-cylinder diesel engine. 2-wheel drive, power steering, 48" cutting deck and 650L high dump collector.	Retail price: £20,300.28 Discount price: £15,675.00	
John Deere X950R	Details as above supplied on an operating lease excluding annual service charge. Includes usage of 200 hours per year. 1 st Payment of: 44 x monthly payments of:		£894.34 £223.59
Kubota G231 HD	Ride on Mower, 23hp, 3-cylinder diesel engine, power steering, 48" cutting deck, rear high lift grass collection box.	Retail price: £14,750.00 Discount price: £13,389.00	
Kubota G231 HD	Details as above supplied on an operating lease, excluding annual service charge. 48 x monthly payments of: Plus £100 documentation fee payable on signing.		£309.00

Resource Appraisal

8. There is no budget in 2021-22 for greening / biodiversity projects. The proposal is to lease a cut and collect mower using funds from the Localism Fund and to agree a budget for 2022-23 onwards to cover monthly leasing costs.
9. Leasing allows machinery to be kept up to date, being changed every 3 or 4 years, dependent on the lease term.

Risk Assessment

10. Without the necessary equipment It will not be possible to manage the identified areas to cultivate wildflower meadows.

Legal Powers

- The Local Government Act 1972, s101.

Recommendation:

- i) To approve to lease an Iseki SXG 326+ ride on cut and collect mower for a period of 48 months, initially funded from the Localism Fund and included in budgets from 2022-23.*