

HICKLING PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO : Portfolio group – Assets

AGENDA ITEM : Cemetery Maintenance

IMPLICATIONS

- **Crime & Disorder**¹ – No implications arising from the Report have been identified.
- **Biodiversity**² - No implications arising from the Report have been identified.

By: Clerk

Date of Meeting : 28.02.23

Letter from a parishioner.

Thank you for your letter regarding quoting for the Cemetery and Walkers green maintenance.

Previously our company did the maintenance and then the parish council opted for the cheapest quote, which we don't have a problem with some being cheaper than our company but they don't follow the specification and the parish council don't enforce it.

It took 2 years for all the hedges to be cut and even then I cut the field sides.

The left hedge is the cemetery's, all the new hedge surrounding the extension is the cemetery's and the dyke is on the farm side of the right hedge so therefore all that is the cemetery's too, inside and out .

If you take a look down there now the drains are blocked outside, the gates don't close properly , some of the hedge on the left side hasn't been cut , the box bushes aren't cut and the bins is most likely full . Also very few graves have been levelled off in the last few years which in places is becoming a hazard. I will say the grass is cut every 2 weeks according to the specification but finishing at the end of October is too soon nowadays with the grass still growing up to December , so therefore some of it is pretty long now .

So to make things fair for anyone quoting the specification needs to be followed and in forced by the parish council and if it's not deductions made to the contractors payment so someone else can do the work which is not done, otherwise the appearance of the grounds decline and that's not fair or respectful to the families of people buried there .

From a parish council point I see the idea of sorting the new contract out now, but if someone new gets the job it's fairly likely that very little will be done there in the next two and a half months as there will be no incentive to especially as no one inspects the work .

¹ Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires parish councils to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

² Section 40 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 requires local authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions. Biodiversity includes species of plants and animals and the ecosystems of which they are part.

To be fair with everyone the quoting process needs to be put on hold, the grounds inspected and brought up to the specification requirements or a program put in place as to when outstanding jobs will be done , then people asked to quote again.

Hopefully you can pass this onto the parish council committee and review things. The problem is the parish council don't in force the specification that people are asked to quote on and unless you are prepared to cut corners and leave things not done it impossible to quote completely.