Estates Paper 11 for meeting 5th August 2020

Report on the ride-on machines

1. **Toro Titan ZX5420**
2. The Toro was purchased around May/ June 2012, at the time it was top of the domestic range of mowers. It is used mainly for cutting the large open space areas of the Cemetery, the Churchyard and Campingland, and the Recreation Ground but it is capable of cutting and has been used on all of our sites.
3. It is used in the Cemetery particularly because it has a lower deck height, coming from the domestic range, it leaves everything neat and tidy, like a lawn at home. However, it is also used in the Churchyard and the Recreation Ground although there are some areas of rough, uneven ground. Campingland is also cut by the Toro Titan as it is next to the Churchyard and these areas tend to be done on the same day.
4. The works manager reported that if the Toro is still in good working order it is ideal to have two ride-on mowers. This allows the outside team to maintain all areas, including any new sites that may be handed over within the two-week work schedule they work to. The bonus has been that if one machine breaks down or requires maintenance, the team can still cope with the grass cutting schedule. Sometimes it can take up to three hours to complete daily checks, depending on vandalism, broken glass in the play area and toilets. When this happens the team frequently have both mowers out at once.
5. **Scag Mower**
6. The Scag was purchased in October 2018 when it was thought that the Council were about to take over the Redland and Swans Nest estates outside areas. It is a commercial mower which is more strongly built with a faster road speed. If the Council only had one mower the Scag would be in use nearly every day, this should not be a problem for the machine. However other jobs would need to be rethought, such as roadside-strimming and hedge-cutting which are usually carried out by teams of two for health and safety reasons.
7. **Current Position**
8. Concerns were raised by Cllrs regarding the spending on the Toro, which has increased over the last couple of years. (£710.95 in the last 12 months). At the moment the machine is working well but it has been decided that no further outlay would be made on this machine.
9. Current costs for contractors are £38 plus Vat to cut the Recreation Ground, CGM have been asked to provide a price for Orford Rd. Smaller areas including the Oaklands and Merryweather may prove more problematic for contractors but a comparison quote has been sought.