

# Land and Village Maintenance

## Overview

Responsibilities for grounds maintenance and street cleanliness in Clipstone are shared between Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Clipstone Parish Council.

During and following a period of employees absence, Clipstone Parish Council fell behind its schedule to fulfil responsibilities of grounds maintenance work and grass verge cutting. Priority was given to cemetery maintenance and the village hall. Work is now being brought up to date.

Weed spraying in the village has not taken place and litter has been present resulting in some areas of Clipstone village, in particular Mansfield Road looking untidy. These are responsibilities of Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Turf cut back from the public footpath heading out of Clipstone towards Cavendish roundabout had been cut back, discarded and not removed. The ground has been left uneven and Councils ride on mowing equipment is not robust enough to maintain the land to an appropriate standard.

## Actions

Following absences ending the team has worked hard to fulfil Councils responsibilities with the cemetery being returned to its high standard. Grass verges and Parish Council land have been cut, and the Cavendish roundabout and surrounding areas have been cut back and mowed. Work is being caught up, however machinery failure has stalled the progress. Councils largest machine, a stand on mower is now in a workshop awaiting repair, and will likely be out of use for at least one month. Council has no suitable equipment for mowing grass verges or its land at this time.

Council is appreciative for the temporary loan of the Clipstone Colts / Miners Welfare ride on mower, enabling the grass verges to be cut. Cavendish Way grass verges has been strimmed by hand.

Grass verges alongside the footpath between Clipstone and Cavendish roundabout are difficult to maintain due to discarded turf from the path being left on the verges and Councils mowing equipment not being suitable for the uneven ground. Councillor Carlton is following up the removal / flattening of the discarded turf.

Notts County Council are responsible for weed spraying in Clipstone. The first spray of the season had not taken place. Notts County Council contract to Via, who in turn subcontract weed spraying. A formal complaint has been raised with Via, and subsequently the first weed spray of the year will be conducted during w/c 19 June. The Clerk has highlighted that weed spraying is no longer sufficient and the weeds need clearing away.

Newark and Sherwood District Council Street Scene team have been engaged to support returning the village to being presentable.

A mini day of action to include Notts County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Parish Council employees has been proposed. This would make a quick visible impact to the tidiness of Clipstone.

Support from Councillor Carlton in progressing these matters is acknowledged and appreciated.

### Quotation

While Councils equipment is out of use, quotations have been sought to hire and purchase a ride on mower.

#### Hire:

Six companies have been contacted to provide a quote for hire of a ride on mower. One quote has been received. Some companies will not provide a quote until an account is opened, and others do not have the availability for hire at this time. The quote received is below:

- Kubota G26 ride on mower collectors (rotary deck underneath) = £100/day or £400/5 day working week. Delivery charges additional and all prices are subject to VAT.
- In order to hire a card deposit of £500 per machine is required for a daily hire then refund the difference back onto the card after the hire

A full week hire would enable the second cut of grass verges around Clipstone, including Cavendish Way.

Employees are concerned that there are no mulch mowers available to hire, and the Kubota quoted above requires emptying and the disposal of grass in an appropriate manner.

#### Purchase:

Council may consider the purchase of a ride on mower. A ride on mower would enable grass cutting to be conducted at a quicker pace, complementing existing equipment and allowing employees to increase productivity, making best use of working hours. Parish Workers recommend a 60' cutting deck ride mower, some sample mower options follow:

Mower example option 1



**STIGA**

**STIGA ZT 7132 T Features**

- Zero Turn for maximum control.
- Powerful Kawasaki FR691 engine with a large fuel tank.
- Mulching to keep your lawn healthy and promote growth.
- Large 132 cutting deck with high rise makes it easy to traverse objects.
- Electric blade engagement.
- Anti-scalp wheels to maintain healthy grass no matter the terrain.
- Designed for huge areas.
- 2 Lever steering system offers unparalleled control.
- Comfortable seat with armrests.
- A brilliant piece of garden machinery from STIGA.

Quote 1	£6,249.00 plus VAT
Quote 2	£6,249.00 plus VAT
Quote 3	£5,832.50 plus VAT

Mower example option 2

Hustler Fastrak SDX 60" – this is the same machine as Clipstone Colts / Clipstone Welfares ride on mower.



Quote 1	£10,340 plus VAT
Quote 2	£11,450 plus VAT

The quotes have been obtained from suppliers who have stock available for delivery.

Council did not budget for the purchase of new mowing equipment when setting the 2023-2024 budget and precept. Residual funds of £14,770 are available in earmarked reserves from an underspend on the allocated van budget, and adequate funds are available in capital reserves. A virement to the budget can be made.

It is noted that Council employs two Parish Workers. Formerly three Parish Workers have been employed and the employee who left in Summer 2022 has not been replaced. The

availability of a ride on mower with a wider cutting deck would increase productivity of Councils two Parish Workers.

### Recommendation

To consider the hire or purchase of a ride on mower.

If approved to purchase a ride on mower, to agree a budget and consider delegating the choice of equipment to Officers and the Senior Parish Worker.