



# GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 27/15

9 MARCH 2015

The purpose of this paper is to ask the Town Council to discuss and, subject to any proposed amendments, to approve arrangements agreed by the Public Buildings Working Group for the Grounds Maintenance Service from 1 April this year.

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**No.   DETAIL**

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**1)   CONTEXT**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's (IoWC) decision to cease funding for Grounds Maintenance as part of its required budget reductions for the financial year 2015/16 prompted the Town Council to assess the costs of taking on the service itself and to consider arrangements for doing so.
  - b) The IoWC is retaining responsibility for the maintenance of Ventnor Park as one of the Island's Principal Parks leaving the Cascades and 17 grassed areas to be covered by a new Town Council managed service.
  - c) Members of the Public Buildings Working Group have inspected all the sites involved and established the level of maintenance required for them.
  - d) The Town Council has included a provision of £20,000 in its 2015/16 Budget for these works and approved additional works, funded from this year's Budget, to restore the Cascades.
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**2)   TENDER PROCESS**

- a) The size of the contract requires that a full tender process is adopted in line with the Town Council's Financial Regulations.
  - b) Councillor Brian Lucas has prepared a detailed specification as required by the process based on the IoWC's contract where relevant.
  - c) Invitations to tender have been sent to three companies: John O'Connors (Grounds Maintenance) Ltd, Brighstone Landscaping Ltd and Groundsell Contracting Ltd with a closing date noon on 13 March 2015.
  - d) Members are required to appoint one of their number to attend the opening of the tenders at the deadline for their submission.
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**3)   THE CASCADES**

- a) The remedial work on the Cascades in preparation of the summer planting formerly approved by Members is now well advanced.
  - b) The work is being carried out by John O'Conner's (Grounds Maintenance) Ltd in response to the accepted specification attached to this report for Members' information in a total of £5,024.
  - c) Estimates were separately invited for the painting of the handrails and a contract for that work will be awarded on Monday 9 March.
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