



# GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 43/17

12 JUNE 2017

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' agreement for two amendments to the Town Council's current contract with John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance.

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**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) When the Isle of Wight Council stopped funding Grounds Maintenance as part of its Budget reductions the Town Council chose to agree its own contract for the work in Ventnor from 1 April 2015.
  - b) A contract was agreed with John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance for a total of 18 areas including the Cascade Gardens as the Isle of Wight Council excluded them from its list of Principal Parks from 1 April 2015.
  - c) The contact was based on a fixed annual price of £26,760 paid in equal monthly instalments until 31 December 2017.
  - d) This Report proposes changes, with the recommendation of the Assets & Services Working Group, to both price and term.
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**2) CONTRACT PRICE**

- a) There have been several adjustments to the contract price during the first two years, the most significant of which have been the move – with the contractor's agreement – to a partnership basis with Ventnor Botanic Garden for the Cascade Gardens planting, and the reduction in the grass cutting area in Upper Ventnor as a consequence of the transfer of the site to the new Free School building.
  - b) At a meeting on 10 May with the Clerks and Councillor James Toogood the contractor's Island Manager Stan Hayden proposed a basis for the contract price consisting of agreement on the impact of the various past adjustments at £20,772 and a 2.5% inflation addition taking the 2017/18 annual contract price to £21,187 to continue to be paid in 12 equal monthly payments.
  - c) The Assets & Services Working Group meeting of 23 May agreed this as its recommendation to the next Town Council meeting.
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**3) CONTRACT TERM**

- a) The Isle of Wight Council has now told us that its own current contract with John O'Conner ends on 31 March 2019 and that it intends its new contract will reduce all its Grounds Maintenance works, including that involving Principal Parks, to the statutory minimum.
  - b) The Town Council's Partnership Agreement with the Isle of Wight Council under which it carries out its own contract with John O'Conner also ends on the same date.
  - c) The Assets & Services meeting of 23 May agreed to recommend to the next Town Council meeting that its own contract with John O'Conner be extended to 31 March 2019 with a 2.5% annual inflation increase being applied also to the 2018/19 contractual arrangement.
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**4) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to agree:

- i) the price of its contract with John O'Conner for 2017/18 at £21,187; and
  - ii) the extension of that contract to 31 March 2019 with a further annual 2.5% inflation increase for 2018/19.
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