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**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Southbourne Parish Council's  
Greenspace & Community Services Committee held 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

**Present:** Cllrs: James (Chair), Green and Meredith

**In Attendance:** S. Hodgson - Clerk and RFO  
M. Carvajal-Neal – Deputy Clerk

***The meeting opened at 12.32pm***

**81. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs: Bangert, Hicks and Riddoch due to conflicting appointments. No apologies has been received from Cllr. Redman.

**83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

**84. ADJOURNMENT FOR OPEN FORUM**

*There were no members of the public in attendance.*

**85. LAWNMOWER FOR RECREATION GROUND - INCLUDING CONSIDERATION  
OF WHETHER TO:**

- **PURCHASE A RIDE ON LAWN MOWER**
- **CONTINUE WITH NEGOTIATIONS TO HAVE JOINT USE OF A LOCAL  
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS EQUIPMENT AND IF SO, PURCHASE A  
TRAILER AND TOW BAR FOR TRANSPORTING**
- **IDENTIFICATION OF ANY BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS.**

The Chairman spoke about the options and felt that whilst there was an opportunity to share the use of a mower from a local community organisations there were certain points to be considered:

- What happens when both parties require use of the mower on the same day
- How to manage any damages, repairs and ongoing maintenance costs
- Transporting the mower will incur additional charges i.e., SPC would need to purchase a trailer and tow bar

The Chairman also summarised considerations for purchasing a lawn mower:

- Initial outlay would be quite high
- By undertaking the grass cutting in-house considerable savings would be made on contractor costs and the initial costs would be re-couped fairly quickly
- There are sufficient storage facilities

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** to purchase a lawnmower and undertake the grass cutting at the recreation ground in-house.

Members were asked to consider a number of quotations from three different suppliers for mowers of varying specification and costs. Because of the many variations and costs it was **AGREED** that the caretaker as the primary user of the mower would visit one of the establishments to test the mowers to establish the best type and model most suited for the requirements.

It was further **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Finance & Policy Committee that an amount of up to £4750 +VAT (the cost of the most expensive Mower) be budgeted for and that the Contract/Caretaker, Clerk and Chairman have delegated authority to make the final decision on which mower to purchase up to the agreed amount.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm