

# Stoke St Michael Parish Council

**MEETING Date: ...Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August.....**

<p><b>Agenda Item:</b> Insert wording to appear on the agenda. Remember to make it clear what you are asking your fellow Councillors to do. "To consider..." " To note..." "To review..." "To resolve..."</p>	<p>To consider the purchase of equipment to assist with maintenance of the Millennium Wood and the parish footpaths, including appropriate training for Alun Stewart (PPLO).</p>
<p><b>Background Information:</b> Insert as much information as possible so that councillors have the detail that they need in order to make an informed decisions</p>	<p>The Parish Council is requested to provide total or partial funding of "brush cutter" course. Total cost is £120 + VAT, but Somerset Council (Martin Cooper <a href="mailto:MDCooper@somerset.gov.uk">MDCooper@somerset.gov.uk</a>) has in principle agreed to partially fund the course for AI.</p> <p>AI is covered by insurance through Somerset Council.</p> <p>In addition, the Parish Council could purchase equipment to support maintenance work in the Millennium Wood and of the footpaths. Possible equipment includes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brush cutter</li> <li>○ Strimmer</li> <li>○ Hedge trimmer</li> <li>○ Goggles</li> <li>○ Gloves</li> <li>○ Rake and pitchfork</li> <li>○ Visor with ear defenders</li> <li>○ Safety Signage.</li> </ul> <p>A cost estimation is below.</p> <p><b>Climate Change and reducing use of fossil fuels:</b> We are proposing buying battery powered equipment. These are of a high professional specification. The use of electrical equipment will reduce the use of petrol (producing less Co2) demonstrating good environmental practice and in addition this equipment is less noisy and has a lower vibration level so is safer for the operator and also provides less noise disturbance than petrol powered equipment.</p> <p><b>Use and cost savings:</b> The equipment will be shared by both the FP officer and Millennium wood team. Simon Clarke Chair of the Millennium wood is trained in use of this equipment (he has worked professionally in the nature conservation sector for over twenty years). Simon is also willing to support</p>

	<p>Al Stewart in his role. The proposal is that Al and Simon can work together on projects thus reducing timescales to do the work and therefore reducing contractor costs for both the PC and Millennium Wood work and providing additional health and safety support to each other.</p> <p>Insurance and H&amp;S requirements will of course all need to be agreed.</p> <p><b>Health and Safety:</b> As discussed there are a number H&amp;S benefits from this approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased H&amp;S signage,</li> <li>- Reduced noise and hand arm vibration associated with equipment</li> <li>- Development of a team of operators to work together and provide H&amp;S support to each other and to act as 'banksmen' in public areas.</li> </ul> <p>We need to discuss, should this equipment be purchased, where can we store this securely.</p> <p>Insurance for potential equipment purchase also needs to be considered, as does fuel or electricity costs to run the equipment. The preference is to purchase professional battery powered equipment to show SSM PC as part of "Green Somerset".</p> <p>Purchase of this equipment would reduce some of the on-going costs of hiring gardening services to do certain jobs, including mowing in the wood. Potential savings are around £1000 p.a.</p>
<p><b>Background Documents:</b> Insert names of documents to be sent out with the meeting papers.</p>	
<p><b>Costs:</b> Insert detail of any costs associated with the decision that you are asking the council to make</p>	<p>Cost of Training - £120 + VAT</p> <p>Costs and details of Equipment:</p> <p><b>Costings:</b></p> <p><b>1. Brushcutter: Electric</b></p> <p><b>Husqvarna 535iRXT</b> is a robust, high-performance battery-powered brushcutter designed for full-time professional use - lightweight, well-balanced and power equivalent to</p>

	<p>a 35cc petrol brushcutter. Includes grass blade and ErgoFeed™ trimmer head.</p> <p><b>£649.00 Rec. retail price inc. VAT</b></p> <p><b>2. Hedge cutter: Electric</b></p> <p><b>Husqvarna 120iTK4</b> battery pole hedge trimmer combines petrol performance with zero direct emission and quiet operation. 120iTK4 is a Telescopic pole product, which means that you can combine the “body” of the machine with either a hedge trimmer or a pole saw attachment. This makes it a versatile and convenient tool for several operations depending on the task at hand.</p> <p>£299.00 Rec. retail price inc. VAT</p> <p><b>3. Husqvana BLi20 Batteries</b></p> <p>2 X Powerful 36V Li-ion batteries designed for demanding domestic use. High capacity for longer run times.</p> <p>2 X £159.00 Rec. retail price inc. VAT</p> <p><b>4. Gloves :</b> 2 x sets £30.00 for both</p> <p><b>5. Helmets with ear defenders</b> £36.08 each x 2</p> <p><b>6. Safety glasses:</b> £14.48 each</p> <p><b>7. Safety Signage:</b> 2 x Foldable Tree /Mend at work to alert of ongoing work. £160.00 plus Vat</p> <p><b>8. 1 x Pitchfork and 1 x rake:</b> for removing cut vegetation off paths: £75.00 plus Vat</p> <p><b>Total costs.</b> £ 1632.12 plus VAT</p>
<p><b>Recommendation</b> Insert the resolution that you are seeking i.e., “to resolve to...” “to note that ...”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To resolve to cover half the cost of the “brush cutter” course for Alun Stewart (£60 + VAT)</li> <li>2) To resolve to proceed with the purchase of the maintenance equipment as set out in this proposal (total cost £1632.12)</li> </ol>