

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	17/2018		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Lengthsman Review of Service and Equipment Request.		
To:	Community Services Committee	Date:	23.07.18
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Purpose of Report

To review and identify requirements to enable the continued growth of the Town Lengthsman Service. To consider a request from the Lengthsman for improved equipment.

Background

Brixham Town Council launched its Lengthsman Service in May 2017. The part time role was created to supplement the work carried out by TOR2 in the Town. Duties include weed control, graffiti removal, litter removal, hedge trimming, clearing of overgrowth and footpaths. A vehicle and equipment were purchased at the start of the project.

The project was initially for 12 months but following a successful first year it was agreed to continue with the provision and in May 2018, the Evaluation Committee agreed to extend the contract. A meeting was held with the Lengthsman who agreed to continue employment and a letter was given to him to confirm that the contract of employment has been extended for a further 12 months.

In March 2018 the Town Council was approached by Kingswear Parish Council to provide ten hours a month within the Kingswear Parish. This is the first time the Town Council has provided a contracted service to another Council. A Service Level Agreement has been signed by both Councils which runs until April 2019.

Employment

The Town Council employs one person to carry out the Lengthsman duties. This is a part time role, hours are annualised over the year with 10 hours a month allocated to Kingswear Parish.

Days and hours worked (subject to flexibility)

Winter Days	Times	hours	Summer Days	Times	hours
Monday	08:30 to 14:30	6	Monday	08:30 to 13:30	5
Wednesday	08:30 to 13:30	5	Wednesday	08:30 to 13:30	5
Friday	08:30 to 13:30	5	Thursday (2 nd & 4 th of each month in Kingswear Parish)	08:00 to 14:00	6
Less overtime hours accrued during summer months			Friday	08:30 to 13:30	5
		Total	16	Total	21

The service is in high demand with a high volume of requests received to date.

Requests are submitted through Social Media, telephone, email and in person to the office. Work requests are managed by the Town Council office. The Lengthsman works in zones around the town on rotation to provide a proactive service. However, some work requires a more flexible approach and therefore we still operate a small amount of work on a reactive style.

Disposal of Green Waste

The volume of green waste has increased, and an agreement has been reached with TOR2 that the Town Council can dispose of green waste at its recycling and waste disposal centre free of charge using the Lengthsman vehicle.

How the role has developed

The service was instigated to supplement the work carried out by TOR2 in the Town. The first year has proved the need for this work in the community. We are noticing an increase in the volume of requests as Torbay Council continue to reduce services year on year.

Other factors are:

- Contract with Kingswear Parish Council. Reducing the hours spent in Brixham.
- Nature of the requests, larger jobs being undertaken.
- An increased awareness within the community of the Lengthsman.
- Requirement from the Town Council to assist with maintenance on allotment sites and general duties.

An example of the type of increase in expectation: Torbay Council have requested assistance with the maintenance of hanging baskets which are being considered for installation on the refurbished toilet block at Bank Lane toilets. The Town Council would need to supply the plants, baskets and maintenance. Torbay Council would provide the brackets and an automated irrigation system run off the toilet block. This is a good opportunity for partnership working and raising the profile of the Town Council and Lengthsman. At the time of writing the report we are waiting for details such as how many baskets are required and therefore a separate report will be produced.

Equipment:

The original equipment purchased to get the project started now requires upgrading.

Larger jobs are being undertaken which is putting the existing equipment under pressure. The current multi tool is being used 4 to 5 hours per day, the Lengthsman has reported the equipment is overheating due to extended use and recently reported a minor burn injury.

Following discussions with the Lengthsman consideration to purchase robust commercial equipment is required to enable the Lengthsman to carry out his duties safely and more efficiently.

The Lengthsman has highlighted a requirement for the following equipment:

- Moss Removal Product.
- Hedge Trimmer.
- Leaf Blower.

MOSS REMOVAL PRODUCT

Product	Specification	Cost
Qualgex Surface Biocide 5 Litre	<p>Qualgex is a surface biocide for professional use and is fully HSE registered. Qualgex can be used to treat algae, moss and lichen on external hard surfaces including artificial sports surfaces, patios, tarmac, headstones and concrete paths.</p> <p>A fully registered HSE biocide Contains citric acid and penetrant to aid efficacy against Moss Highly active and long-lasting product Rapid acting - results seen within 48 hours Effective against all types of algae and also effective against Moss and lichen Has a cleaning action which "brightens" the surface. Qualgex is for use on hard surfaces such as concrete, paving, tarmac and bricks to treat algae, moss and lichen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply at 1 litre/100m² Qualgex in 20litres/100m² of water. 	£66.67 +VAT
NOMIX Amacite HSE 9771	<p>Nomix Amacite is a professional biocide for use on external hard surfaces.</p> <p>Controls algae and mould on pavements, roofs, artificial sports pitches, walls, buildings and artificial tennis courts. Cost effective - 5 litre can cover up to 1000m² Fast acting - Results from just 48 hours after application Easy to apply - apply with a brush, mop or as a spray No odour - more comfortable for the operator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harder to remove stains – 1 litre NOMIX Amacite in 20 litres of water will cover up to 100m² <p>*Spray water pump required for both products.</p>	£50.75 +VAT
Hozelock Standard Pump Pressure Sprayer 5L	<p>The Hozelock Plus Pump Pressure Sprayer is a 5-litre pump pressure sprayer that incorporates a number of high quality, easy to use and practical features. The pressure sprayer is ideal for outdoor use.</p> <p>www.waterirrigation.co.uk</p> <p>Required for both of the above applications.</p>	£16.86 +VAT

LEAF BLOWER

Model	Specification	Cost	Comments
Makita BHX2501	4-Stroke Petrol Hand-Held Garden Leaf Blower 4- STROKE ENGINE DHV. 25.4cc DISPLACEMENT. RECOIL START METHOD. ELECTRONIC IGNITION. MAX AIR FLOW SPEED: 65m ³ /sec. VIBRATION LEVEL: 0.5m/sec ³² NO LOAD: 9.3m/sec ² WEIGHT 4.4kg.	£155.83 + VAT	www.howetools.co.uk https://www.howetools.co.uk/makita-bhx2501-petrol-blower Free delivery 1 Year warranty
DEWALT DCM572X1 54v	FLEXVOLT li-ion battery and charger 1 x 9.0Ah *60 min charge time (on half power) AIRFLOW VOLUME 718m ³ /hr AIRFLOW SPEED 120mph SOUND LEVEL 88dBA VIBRATION LEVEL 1.9m/s ² WEIGHT 4.6kg	£293.33 + VAT	www.howetools.co.uk https://www.howetools.co.uk/dewalt-dcm572x1-54v-blower Free delivery 1 Year Warranty – can be extended to 3 years with early registration. *Short battery life

HEDGE TRIMMER

Model	Specification	Cost	Comments
HUSQVAR NA 226HD60S 23.6cc Petrol 60cm Hedge Trimmer	ANTI VIBRATION SYSTEM - Yes BLADE TYPE - Double Sided CLUTCH TYPE - Centrifugal CUTTING BLADE LENGTH - 60cm / 23.6" ENGINE DISPLACEMENT CC - 23.6cc ENGINE TYPE - 2-Stroke Petrol and Oil Mix 50:1 FUEL TYPE - Unleaded Petrol GEAR BOX TYPE - Heavy Duty MAX. BRANCH DIAMETER - 22mm / 0.87" NOISE LEVEL IN DB(A) / LWA 91dB(A) POWER OUTPUT KW/BHP - 0.85kW / 1.1hp QUICK BLADE STOP - Yes RECOIL START - Yes VIBRATION DAMPENED CARBURETTOR - 1.8 / 1.5ms ² WEIGHT - 5.7kg IGNITION TYPE - Electronic	£367.54 +VAT	https://www.worldofpower.co.uk/husqvarna-223hd60s-23-6cc-petrol-hedge-trimmer-60cm-double-sided-x-torq.html 1-year commercial guarantee.
HUSQVAR NA 136LiHD45 Cordless 18" Hedge Trimmer –	BLADE TYPE - Double Sided CUTTER BAR LENGTH - 18" / 45cm FUEL TYPE - 36v Lithium Ion Battery GEAR BOX TYPE - Durable HANDLE TYPE - Ergonomic NOISE LEVEL IN DB(A) / LWA - 73dB(A) PRODUCT ID NO -36LiHD45 VIBRATIONS - 1/1 m/s ² WEIGHT - 3.1kg Quick Charger Recommended for Bli10-Bli200 Batteries	£142.72 +VAT BODY ONLY (See below)	https://www.worldofpower.co.uk/husqvarna-136lihd45-cordless-18-hedge-trimmer-body-only.html 1-year commercial guarantee.

HUSQVAR NA QC330 330w Quick Charger	Active Cooling LED Charge Indicator 240v Mains Voltage Charges in as Little as 40 Mins to 100%	£55.97 +VAT	https://www.worldofpower.co.uk/husqvarna-qc330-120w-charger.html
HUSQVAR NA BLi150 4.2Ah 36v Battery	5.2Ah Battery Capacity All Weather Use Continuous Use Up To 1500 Charge Life Maximum Capacity, Longer Run Times	£146.00 +VAT	https://www.worldofpower.co.uk/husqvarna-bli200-36v-5-2ah-lithium-ion-battery.html
		TOTAL £344.69	

Consideration for Future Provisions

Consideration needs be given to the future management of the service. We are already identifying an increase in requests and demand on our services, which at present are still manageable. However, the Town Council should be aware and consider the options for the future now in preparation for planning within the budget for 2019/20.

To meet the increased demand in service a review of the current hours is required. This could involve extending the hours of the current role or increasing the staff provision. A separate report is required.

Recommendations to Full Council

Members have previously agreed that where possible the Council should consider battery powered equipment. Due to the type of work undertaken this is not always possible as maximum power capability is required.

1. The Town Council purchases the HUSQVARNA 226HD60S 23.6cc Petrol 60cm Hedge Trimmer.
2. The Town Council purchases the DEWALT DCM572X1 Leaf Blower. Battery power will be sufficient for this purpose as it is not envisaged the leaf blower will be required for long periods of time. Please note, this will cost £137.50 more than the petrol version listed above.
3. The Town Council purchases one 5 litre Moss Removal product. Nomix Amacite and 5L water pump.
4. Set up a working group to consider future provisions of the Town Lengthsman Service.