

## **WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **REPORT ON GROUNDS CARE ISSUES**

**Written by Liz Jones, Parish Clerk**

**For Parish Council Meeting on 5 May 2015 – Agenda item 15/10**

Decisions have been postponed at recent parish council meetings as the Clerk was not in a position to be able to answer some questions of detail raised by councillors. In accordance also with recent recommendations adopted by the council, the Senior Groundsman, Mr Robert Pinion, has been asked to attend the 5 May 2015 meeting in order to assist councillors by answering any questions regarding the grounds care issues numbers 1, 2 and 3 below.

The matters which need to be decided are: -

1. New proposal - whether the council should adopt the practice of vertidrainning the sport pitches on an annual basis as this has proved very successful during the last two years. Report from Mel Pooley and costings attached.
2. Purchase and sowing of grass seed recommended for the football pitches, outfield and general recreation area. As the cost was of concern at the last Parish Council meeting, this item has been reviewed and it has been agreed that, due to better regrowth than anticipated, the quantity of seed to be purchased could be reduced. The proposal is now to purchase 400kg at a cost of £960 to be sown with a disc overseeder. The work to be carried out as soon as possible during May. The cost of the contractor's time would be £200 resulting in a total cost of £1160.
3. At the last meeting, the question of purchase of a new wicket mower in accordance with the circulated report (within machinery budget for the year 2015-16) was deferred because of doubts over the continuing existence of the cricket teams. Whilst the Waterbeach team has withdrawn from the Saturday league, the Council recently agreed to permit the wicket to be used by outside teams on a Saturday, all of whom will be paying a higher contribution than the local teams. The midweek team will also still be playing. It is important therefore that the staff have the necessary equipment to maintain the wicket to an appropriate standard. Maximum cost of a new mower would be £4,000 (Ransomes or similar brand) but the clerk would endeavour to find a better price either through a good quality second hand mower or through an alternative supplier, different brand or an additional less expensive cassette for the existing mower. [The clerk has not yet received the contact information for the potential supplier of a 10 blade cassette at a lower price than that suggested in the report.]

In addition the clerk has recently been advised that there will be a further report on groundscare from Councillors Bull and Rabbett, which will be circulated for this meeting. The clerk is still receiving such input from councillors and therefore still working on a report that can be used as a specification in order to obtain best value. This report will consist of a definition of all the groundscare and other work undertaken by staff at present and to what standard. Based on this information there will be a thorough specification for the future. Once complete that report will be recommended to the council for approval.