

Hilton Parish Council – Mowers

Paper to the Hilton Parish Council for 29/1/20 meeting.

The following information was gathered after a trip to Masseys of Swadlicote.

- There were 4 manufacturers on display suitable for commercial work these being Stiga, Honda, Toro and Stihl.
- Masseys sell Toro machines in to housing associations.
- The Stihl machine is the most robust of all those looked at, the price perhaps reflects this.
- All machines have metal decks with the exception of Honda who now manufacture in high impact plastic. The Stihl machine is a cast deck, the Toro and Stiga are pressed steel.
- The selected machines are collection and mulching. This means for a lawn finish you use the box and for a good finish the machine will mulch the cuttings and drop them back on the grass. The machines will also just chuck the cuttings out non mulched for higher speed. For HPC work I would suggest we would not need box collection.
- Masseys had 4 Rover machines in for repair, owned by Leicestershire Council with failed rear shaft / bearings- just like ours. They also cant get parts at present.

	
<p>Honda 50cm £1169 in VAT</p>	<p>Stiga Multiclip 50 – 50cm cut £899 in VAT</p>
	
<p>Toro Turfmaster – 76cm cut £1099 in VAT</p>	<p>Stihl RM756 – 54cm cut £1425 in VAT</p>

Things to consider

- Where do we want to use the machine
- Ease of use
- Availability of spares
- Ease of maintenance
- Cutting width
- Power drive
- Cost
- Robustness
- Lead time from order
- 2 stroke or 4 stroke
- How many do we want / what type?

A note on width: take a 50m x 50m area of grass. Assume a drive speed of 4kph and the grass is not collected. A 50cm mower will take 75 minutes. A 75cm mower will take 49 minutes.

Recommendations

Step 1

- We understand what we want to use the mower for, now and in the future.
- We need to ask the team what they want.
- Understand from the 29/1/20 meeting the approximate maximum budget available

Step 2

- With the understanding of our requirement and consideration of the above list we can have a more informed visit to suppliers to look at different machines

Step 3

- Having reviewed machines and gathered information a paper should be presented to the Parish council on 26/2/20 for a decision to be made on purchase.

Step 4

- Order machine(s) for delivery for end of March 2020 to align with start of mowing season.

Councillor Mark Coney
26th January 2020