Leafield Parish Council

Specification for grass cutting – general areas – November 2021

# 1. General

1.1 The Contractor shall use appropriate equipment and machinery driven or operated in a manner appropriate to the task, by skilled operatives.

1.2 The Contractor shall ensure that machines and equipment do not damage the sward or its visual appearance.

1.3 Once a cut or treatment has started on site it shall be completed in one operation.

1.4 Litter, stones and other debris shall be collected immediately prior to cutting or treatment being undertaken. Leafield Parish Council shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the Contractor’s equipment or employees, however caused.

1.5 Cutting shall be appropriate to the type of grass areas being treated. For the purposes of this specification, grass areas shall be defined as follows:

* Playing and sports fields are defined as generally flat grass areas that provide informal recreational use and can be marked out and used for organised sport;
* Public open space is defined as that which is open to general pedestrian use;
* Roadside verges are defined as strips of grassland abutting road and footpath thoroughfares.

1.6 Every care shall be taken when mowing around isolated trees in grass areas. Where overhanging branches prevent the specified machinery being used, grass shall be cut by other appropriate means. Any tree that are damaged as a result of mowing shall be replaced at the Contractor’s own expense in the following planting season.

1.7 The Contractor shall exercise every care in carrying out works around flat and protruding obstacles in grass areas. Heavy or vibrating machinery shall not be driven over manhole and duct covers, culverts or narrow ditches and grips unless it is obvious they are strong enough to remain undamaged.

1.8 Damaged occasioned by the Contractor to service covers and structures shall be immediately reported to the Council and repaired as required, at the Contractor’s cost.

1.9 The Contractor shall ensure that the arising or residue from any activity involved in maintaining the grass areas does not enter any water course, drain or sewer. Any such occurrence shall be immediately reported to the Council and the Contractor shall be liable.

# 2. Grass cutting

2.1 Grass shall be cut to a consistent height over the specified area. There shall be no tufts or bents left standing above the general sward level.

2.2 The cutting season is from March (weather dependent) ~~Apri~~l until the last week of October. Grass shall be cut as per Table A.

2.3 Banks and steep slopes shall be cut so that the appearance and cut height is similar to the surrounding area.

2.4 Grass shall not be cut in adverse weather and ground conditions. Cutting shall only recommence when it is safe to do so, without danger or damaging the sward, surface levels or contours of the ground.

2.5 Where inclement weather conditions delay normal cutting programmes the Contractor is required to resume work as soon as practically possible and is required to restore works to the specified standard.

2.6 Following delays occasioned by inclement weather the Contractor shall collect and dispose to an official tip arising of the first cut following the delay.

# 3. Edging and Trimming

3.1 Grass abutting walls, hedges and other plant growth shall be trimmed level with the general sward level at each cut.

3.2 Grass abutting gully gratings, manhole and inspection covers or other metal, concrete and all stone obstructions within the sward shall be trimmed as often as necessary to keep a clear line to the edge of the obstruction.

3.3 Edges of grass around lamp posts, telegraph poles, litter-bins and the like shall be trimmed to the level of sward at each cut.

3.4 Growth regulators or contact herbicides are not be used to edges of grass areas without the express written permission of the Council.

# 4. Chemical Applications

4.1 Application of chemicals shall be undertaken in compliance with all current regulations, including the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, The Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended), The Control of Pollution Act 1974, The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and relevant DEFRA Codes of Practice.

4.2 The Contractor shall provide a list of pesticides and fertilisers to be applied under this contract for written acceptance by the Council.

4.3 The Contractor shall inform the Council at least 48 hours before the application of chemicals is undertaken, with the reason stated for why the chemical application is required.
The Contractor shall be responsible for determining that:

* The type of chemical is suitable for purpose;
* The timing of operations is both horticulturally correct and socially acceptable;
* The rates of application are correct;
* The method of application is appropriate to the prevailing circumstances.

4.4 The Contractor shall put up warning notices before the application of chemicals is undertaken.

4.5 Chemicals shall only be applied to those areas specified on the tender maps.

4.6 Operatives shall be suitably trained and certified for the application of pesticides and fertilisers, and evidence of training shall be provided to the Council.

# 5. Insurance

5.1 Contractors must hold a minimum of £5 million Public Liability Insurance.

5.2 A copy of the current Public Liability Insurance certificate should be submitted with the tender.

# TABLE A

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| **Area (see maps for more information)** | **Frequency** | **Notes** |
| Village Green – central/largest areaMap 1Map 2Wildflower map | Weekly or as required | 1. This Green is often used by the school as a playing field during school hours.2. During 2021 there will be a Wildflower Experiment on the main Green adjacent to the school where areas **not to be cut** will be marked out with temporary posts, string and signage, and will be approximately 1-2ft wide.Site 1: the verge on the west school boundary next to the tarmac drive, from the pavement to the first school gate.Site 2: the southern school boundary wall from the south-west corner to the start of the fencing. |
| Village Green – other areasMap 1Map 2 | Three weekly | These areas are often used at the weekends. |
| Village Playing FieldsMap 1 | Three weekly | 1. Leave a 6ft boundary around the playing fields (along the bottom and 2 sides, one side: full length, second side: as far as the pre-school garden) to encourage wildlife. This is only to be cut 2-3 times a year, in order to maintain a meadow area.2. There is a copse of newly planted trees on the bottom left corner of the playing field (from the entrance) which should be treated as part of the 6ft boundary. |
| Enclosed play areaMap 1 | Three weekly | This area is currently closed for repair, but when reopened will require cutting. |
| Buttermilk LaneMap 3 | Monthly or as required |  |
| Drainage ditchMap 5 | Twice a year | This needs to be maintained to ensure it functions as drainage leading to a gully at the roadside. |