Leafield Parish Council

Specification for grass maintenance – Burial Ground – November 2021

**St Michael and all Angels Church, Leafield**

# 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, subject to clause 2.4.

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.

1.6 The Contractor shall exercise every care in carrying out works around flat and protruding obstacles in grass areas.

1.7 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.

1.8 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 and maintenance

2.1 Grass shall be cut to a consistent height over the burial ground using a high quality rotary mower.

2.2 The cutting season is from March (weather dependent) ~~April~~ until the last week of October, cutting burial areas fortnightly.

2.3 Swale to be cut twice a year as agreed with the Council.

2.4 All open areas between the gravestones, memorials and over graves without edging will be cut or strimmed if required. Mowing operations must not damage any permanent or removable fittings.

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 Cut grass in grassed burial areas is not to be collected, but allowed to fly, evenly dispersed over the ground and not left in mounds. Other green waste shall be removed for disposal.

2.8 Cut grass from the swale shall be removed for disposal.

2.9 Grass cuttings must be cleared from paths.

2.10 Nitrogen shall be applied in the growing season as agreed with the Council.

2.11 One dressing of gypsum shall be applied at a rate of 1 ton per hectare as agreed with the Council.

2.12 Monthly decompaction works shall take place if required when the soil is dry and friable in the summer months.

2.13 Selective herbicide to be applied by a certified and qualified contractor as agreed with the Council.

2.14 Regular topping up and top dressing with good quality topsoil material as required on settling graves, as agreed with the Council.

# 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 Paths shall be neatly edged as required.

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

3.4 Herbicide shall be used around memorial bases (as appropriate) unless personally attended.

# 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. Paths

5.1 Gravel paths shall be raked and kept clear of debris. Herbicides to be used as required to keep paths weed-free.

# 6. Insurance

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

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

# ~~6. Burial Ground 2021 specific~~

~~6.1 Grass to be cut fortnightly, height to be between 40 and 60 mm.~~

~~6.2 25kg of nitrogen shall be applied monthly in the growing season.~~

~~6.3 One dressing of gypsum shall be applied at a rate of 1 ton per hectare.~~

~~6.4 Monthly decompaction works when the soil is dry and friable in the summer months.~~

~~6.5 Selective herbicide to be applied when weeds are > 10 % by a qualified and certified contractor.~~

~~6.6 Regular topping up and top dressing with good quality topsoil material as required on settling graves, as agreed with Council.~~

~~6.7 One off price for cutting the swale if required.~~