



COUNCIL

Date: 25 April 2022

Title: Cemetery Services Equipment Purchase

Purpose of the Report:

To consider purchasing larger sets of grave shoring equipment to allow for greater flexibility in expanding the size of graves we can excavate.

Contact Officer:

Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services and Responsible Health and Safety Officer.

Corporate Objective/s	n/a	
Implications:		
Financial	Yes	Cemetery Earmark Reserve 9007/950 has available funds of £36,920.00.
Human Resources	No	
Operational/Service delivery	Yes	Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 (HSWA)
Procedural/Legal	Yes	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
Risk/Health and Safety	Yes	The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
Environmental Aims	No	

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Council be minded, the proposals are:

1.1 To note the report.

1.2 To endorse the purchase of the equipment listed in paragraph 3.1 using the Cemetery Earmarked Reserve 9007/950 with available funds of £36,920.00.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report's purpose is to request Member's consideration for the required purchase of new grave shoring equipment. The Council operates several types of grave shoring systems within the cemeteries. The decision upon which system is used is left to the discretion of our professionally qualified grave diggers or at the instruction of the Head of Service.
- 2.2 The primary considerations made before a system is chosen are the soil structure, depth, width, length of the grave space required, weather conditions and the duration of time the grave is open. Depending on these factors, either one of the following can be used;
- i. Panel and Braces – Adjustable steel panels are used with speed braces.
 - ii. Telescopic Shoring – Vertical shoring is designed as a complete system that can be installed and retrieved without entering the excavation.
 - iii. Timber shoring - A simple process where wooden boards are cut to length to support all four sides of an excavation.
- 2.3 Telescopic shoring is by far the safest system designed and manufactured totally for the cemetery industry. It remains one of the safest shoring systems available. However, it is very time-intensive to install and remove.
- 2.4 The Council's current telescopic shoring system lacks the flexibility to increase its width and length to accommodate a more frequent request for larger graves spaces to be prepared. Therefore a new wider, and longer system needs to be considered. Please note that this will not accommodate bariatric funerals. These are planned to implement the choices made by the family in a bespoke way.
- 2.5 As a burial authority, the Town Council are the custodian of the dead. The Town Council's responsibility is to ensure that the wishes of families wanting their loved one burial are delivered for all.

3. NEW EQUIPMENT

- 3.1
- 8 x Galvanised pressed steel panels 84" - 96" £325.00 per pair
 - 20 x Speed braces 34" - 45" or 37" - 48" £70.00 each
 - 1 x Steel ground support frame for telescopic shoring £200.00 each
 - 1 x Lockdown cover to fit frame £468.00 each
 - 1 x Grave surround walk boards to suit telescopic shoring– black polypropylene with slip retarding surface. End boards have stainless receiver plates which give increments of 50mm (2") adjustment in width but fixed internal length. 12" sides and ends £594.00 per set
 - 1 x (set) Telescopic shores £215.00 each / £4300.00 for a set of 20
 - 1 x Latex backed artificial grass grave set comprising 2 side mats, 2 T pieces and a mound cover £225.00 each

Total £9,787.00 - All prices exclude VAT and carriage.

3.2 This will allow for one telescopic shored grave and two panel and braces shored graves to be open simultaneously.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Leighton-Linslade Town Council is a burial authority by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972 and is legally obliged to maintain its cemeteries 'in good order and repair'. Although not a statutory responsibility of the Town Council, it is felt that public expectation is that cemetery facilities should be available to residents and within the Town irrespective of the size of the grave space required.

End.