

Committee: Town Council

Date: 21 March 2023

Title: Replacement of the Stiga mower

Purpose of Report

Members to outline the reasons for replacement, the selection process for the new mower, and the expected benefits and costs associated with the replacement.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to approve the purchase of the Ferris 400.

Report:

1. The Stiga Park Pro was purchased in 2013 for £5,242, to assist in the cutting of smaller parks and hard to get areas including the churchyard.
2. The Stiga Park Pro despite its name is a high end domestic/low end commercial mower, and with the number of hours it has on the clock, the vehicle has now experienced a number of mechanical and maintenance issues, making it no longer possible to continue to use it as it is not cost-effective to fix. The grass cutting season is fast approaching, and a suitable replacement is required to keep on top of the cutting.
3. The reasons for replacing the Stiga:
 - High maintenance and repair costs – the latest service quote was £991 (ex VAT)
 - Frequent breakdowns
 - Inability to meet the demands of the job
4. The Countryside Manager and Recreation Manager researched several different machines, including: a replacement Stiga, John Deere mowers and stand on mowers. The investigation included:
 - Research and evaluation of potential replacement vehicles
 - Comparison of the features, capabilities, and costs of each potential vehicle
 - Test drive of top two contenders
5. After trialing the top contenders, only two machines were viable, this is because of the tight nature of the cemetery and churchyard as well as the slope at the cemetery. A few smaller stand on mowers were used but this felt very unsafe whilst working on the slope therefore the two realistic options are highlighted below.

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Mower	Manufacturer	Quoted Cost *
Stiga Park Pro	Stiga	£9,789.00
Ferris 400	Ferris	£7,050.00

- *Quotes from supplies as highlighted above can be found in Appendix A*
- *Hunt Forest were approached but sit on mowers available from John Deere were too large for what was needed.*

6. Of the mowers researched, it is the grounds team recommendation to choose the Ferris 400. It has far superior suspension that is patented reducing vibrations significantly, and it's features significantly outperform its competitors and is solid in construction. It is also the cheapest option and is a solid structure compared to the Stiga Park Pro which is not built to the same quality and doesn't have the same features and support that would come with the Ferris.

On many occasions the deck on the Stiga has broken resulting in significant down time whilst repairs are made. It is thought this would not occur with the Ferris as its construction is far more solid.

7. The table below highlights the cutting times of each machine. Though the Ferris is smaller, it reduces the time to cut significantly and allows access to areas the tractor is too big for. The table below compares the strengths of each machine.

Ferris Strengths	Stiga Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced need for services • Zero turns allow maneuverability to all areas of the cemetery • Smaller version of the large mower for the recreation ground means similar maintenance and checks • Solid construction, means reduced downtime from breakages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting height can be set with precision. • Small deck allows maneuverability withing the cemetery

The table below compares the weakness of each machine.

Ferris weakness	Stiga Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting height can only be adjusted in 0.25 of an inch increments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stiga has a significantly lower build quality and often is out of action whilst requiring repairs • more expensive

Expected Costs and Delivery Times:

Ferris 400 cost breakdown	
Supplier	Loxton's Ground Care
Selling Cost	£7,050.00
Cost to Pay	£7,050.00
Est delivery time	Immediately

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8. The replacement of the Stiga with a new Ferris 400 is necessary to ensure the efficient operation of the Open Spaces team. The new vehicle will provide significant benefits in terms of reduced maintenance and repair costs and the ability to meet the demands of the job. The costs associated with the replacement are expected to be offset by the overall reduced cost of ownership of the new vehicle.
9. If Members agree to the purchase of the Ferris 400, this will be funded in the new financial year from Earmarked Reserves for Open Spaces Purchases £9,505.00.
10. Members resolve to approve the purchase of the Ferris 400.

Jake Taylor
Countryside Manager
March 2023

Ferris 400 quote

Ferris 400

PL Peter Loxston <pete@loxston.co.uk> [in](#)
To: Countryside Manager
Mon 2/20/2023 4:23 PM


Hi Jake thank you for giving me the opportunity to demo the Ferris price as follows

Ferris IS 400 £7050 + vat

Kind Regards

Peter

Peter Loxston (Managing Director)




Loxston Groundcare Ltd
New Road
Seavington St Mary
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0QU
UK

01460 242562 www.loxston.co.uk

Stiga replacement quote

STIGA
Stiga Park Pro 340 IX 4WD Ride On Lawn Mower
+ 110cm Pro QF EL Deck

SAVE £1830



START 'N' GO Find out more
START 'N' GO+ Find out more

£9,789.00
RRP: £11,619.00 | **SAVE £1,830**

DISCONTINUED
SKU: STG-PARK340IX-110

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Excellent service, fast delivery
Customer Steve Mitchell, 2 days ago
Showing our 4 & 5 star reviews

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- ✓ Hydrostatic transmission with reverse
- ✓ Huge 15 litre capacity fuel tank
- ✓ 110cm combi Pro Quick Flip cutting deck with electronic deck engagement