

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 9/02/2023

St Mary's Church Grass Cutting

Agenda item 22/131 6: To consider the request for financial assistance and resolve to make a grant for St Mary's Church grass cutting of £2,496.

BACKGROUND

The following request/information has been received on behalf of St Mary's Church:

I have been asked by Fr Paul and the PCC to approach the Parish Council again this year for assistance in funding the grass cutting in the churchyard at St Mary's Church.

The Parish Council has kindly paid for this over the past few years for which the Church, and I am sure the village, is extremely grateful.

The latest Church accounts are currently being prepared and I will send a set to the Parish Council when available if you would like them.

In the meantime we have been given a quote of £260 + VAT per cut (up £10 from last year), with a recommendation to carry out a cutting pattern similar to recent years which seems to work well. That means 8 cuts so £2080 + VAT¹ = £2496 in total which the Church would like to apply for as a grant.

Thank you for your consideration and hopeful approval.

The latest Church accounts – FYE 2020 - were requested but had not been received at the time of writing the report. Copies of the 2019 and 2018 accounts were supplied in 2020 and these can be found in document 22-131 6.1 2019 M12 Mortimer Accounts – Final and 22-131 6.2 2018 M12 Mortimer Accounts - Final respectively.

Making a Grant for the Grass Cutting of a Cemetery

In September 2020, SMPC made a grant under s.214 of £2,484.

At its meeting on the 10th of January, SMPC confirmed its eligibility for and resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence (GPC).

¹ The church is not registered for VAT.

Hampshire Association of Local Councils states GPC is a relevant power under which a council may provide financial contributions to their local Church, but it is recommended that the purpose of the grant is clearly specified and demonstrates a benefit to all or some of the community.

In February 2022, SMPC made a grant under GPC of £2400.

Other

Due to the £10,000 grant for the Coronation event, the Grant Budget for 2022/23 is overspent by £7,500. Further overspend can be supported by the Council's General Reserves.