

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 05/04/2024

St Mary's Churchyard Grounds Maintenance

Agenda item 23/152 7: To consider the request for financial assistance and resolve to make a grant of £2,544.

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 quote that we have been given is attach from which you will see it is just £5 (1.9%) per cut more than last year i.e. £265 + VAT per cut. I assume the cutting pattern will be similar to recent years meaning a total of 8 cuts so £2120 + VAT = £2544 in total which the Church would like to apply for as a grant.

I have asked for up-to-date church accounts to be provided and will forward these to you when I have received them.

Thank you for your consideration and hopeful approval.

The latest Church accounts had not been received at the time of writing the report.

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).

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.

Under GPC, SMPC have made previous grants as follows:

- February 2022 - £2400.
- March 2023 - £2,496

These grants have previously been made from Nominal Code 4448, "Grants". The 2024/25 budget line provides for grants of up to £7,000 to include the Council's contribution towards the running of the library.

Clerk 05/04/2024