

# Full Council - March 2020

## Appendix 4b

### Proposal for the replacement of the RTV

The RTV was purchased as a second-hand vehicle in 2015 and has been in constant use ever since. Over the last year or two, the RTV has experienced an increasing number of problems that have needed repairing, leading to periods of unavailability and increased costs, as follows:

Replacement door and lock	£908.26	3/19
Service and two new wheel bearings	£836.00	2/19
Pennant wiring repair		
Replacement muffler kit	£745.95	7/18
Replacement cargo gate		
Service	£590.06	6/18
Replacement key	£9.29	9/17
New tyre	£95.10	9/17
Replacement gas strut for door	£80.33	6/17
New pole beacon		
New battery		
New door handle	£632.19	12/16
New number plate light		
New tyre		
Tyre and rim repairs	£293.22	6/16

The Council has been putting funds into an earmarked reserve over the last couple of years, for the very purpose of replacing the vehicles they own and operate as and when necessary. There are sufficient funds in the earmarked reserve at present to purchase a new RTV vehicle. The earmarked reserve for the replacement of the RTV/Digger currently stands at **£23000**.

Whilst researching costs for a replacement RTV, suppliers have highlighted a problem with the current tax classification of our current RTVx900. The V5 for the vehicle shows it as an agricultural vehicle for tax purposes – this means no road fund tax is payable and the vehicle is not required to have an MOT. A new X900 model, which would be a direct replacement for the current vehicle, cannot be homologated (made road legal) for use on a road. The X1100 model, which has a slightly larger engine, can be made road legal. This prompted a discussion with the DVLA to establish the correct classification with regards our current vehicle.

### CURRENT POSITION

The position is as follows - the use to which we put the current RTV, is not classified as agricultural, so it should not be classed as such for road tax purposes, instead it should be given a standard tax classification, the same as for cars. This change should have taken place when we first purchased the vehicle. This change in classification can be made. To obtain road tax, the vehicle would now require a current MOT certificate. The vehicle has never been MOT tested and is unlikely to be able to pass in its current condition. Additionally, the vehicle had been using red diesel, which was legal for an agricultural use, but not as a PLG class. This means that the RTV is not currently legal for use on the road, and a resolution is urgently needed.

## **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that the purchase of a replacement vehicle is considered. As the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February decided that an electric vehicle should be considered, a test drive was arranged with a local dealer of a Polaris Ranger EV – a similar vehicle to the current Kubota, but electric rather than diesel.

The test drive made clear that the Polaris Ranger would be an ideal replacement vehicle, having an excellent off-road performance, low running costs, chargeable overnight from a standard 13 amp plug, and road legal with a homologation option. The only compromise is the total payload – the rear cargo area will hold approx. half the weight of the Kubota, meaning that when preparing a plot, there are likely to be two additional trips to remove the excess spoil.

## **QUOTATIONS**

To comply with financial regulations, three quotes have been sought for a new replacement RTV. They are as follows.

1. Taylor Tools Ltd

Cost of new Polaris Ranger EV –	£14462.96
Part exchange on Kubota	£3200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£11,262.96</b>

2. DJ Agri Kent

Cost of new Polaris Ranger EV –	£14154.40
No part exchange offer	

3. RC Boreham

Cost of new Polaris Ranger EV -	£14210.00
No part exchange offer	

The purchase of a new Polaris Ranger EV will provide the Council with a vehicle that is able to meet the various demands within the cemetery and around the parish, low running costs, will enhance our green credentials and will provide a publicity opportunity that demonstrates the Council is supporting the District's declared climate emergency. The quote from Taylor Tools also allows the Council to realise some value from the current Kubota machine.