Report on replacing BTC's on/off road Vehicle "the Mule"

At the June meeting of Estates the following was minuted-;
b) The Clerk reported that extensive research had been undertaken for a replacement mule/ATV (all-terrain vehicle). She confirmed that two electric vehicles identified are not large enough to carry the bowser. No electric lease ATVs had been located. A petrol version of the existing Kawasaki Mule is available at approximately half the cost of the electric versions. The benefits of electric and petrol were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Burton will attempt to identify a suitable electric ATV and clarify if the Climate Emergency Fund would be suitable for this purchase.

Update for this August meeting

1. The Climate Emergency Bonus fund had a funding round recently. The next round will begin in October 2026. This is administered by RDC. BTC can apply.
2. Thanks to a volunteer we have received some outcomes of some suitable electric vehicles that would accommodate workload and the current watering bowser. One from Alke would accommodate the existing bowser Another suggested model from Polaris would require the purchase of new watering equipment. See Appendix A for detailed report on suitable models.
3. Speaking to the supplier, Alke, of the ATX vehicles there are options from short, medium and long wheel bases plus the option of 2 or 4 wheel drive. Procurement of the most suitable vehicle could be confirmed by Officers. However, the research shows it is that the ATX 480 is probably the best option.
4. The supplier, Alke is UK based with engineers and vehicles for servicing and repairs all across the country. A demonstration on site can be arranged.
5. A charge point would need to be purchased and installed. Ideally, this would benefit from the electricity generated from the pavilion roof or a cheap overnight tariff. Charging and over-night secure storage would need to be at the Rec. Initial research shows a cost of £1000 to £1,200 plus VAT to supply and install an EV charge point.
6. The existing Mule could be sold on receipt of a new vehicle.

Recommendations

1. Estates committee agrees to pursue the acquisition of the new all terrain electric vehicle.
2. BTC agrees for officers to clarify which electric vehicle would be the most suitable replacement for the mule.
3. Officers will establish the optimal charging arrangement at the Recreation Ground with costs.
4. BTC will apply for the funding to the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund in RDC's next round.
5. Information and videos to be shared with grounds maintenance staff.
6. Officers will establish the resale value of the existing mule.
7. Officers to report back to October Estates or September Full Council ensuring funding deadlines are not missed.

Cllr Sue Burton 30.07.26