

1. Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2026-2029

The existing grounds maintenance contract for Pontesbury was due to run out on 31 March 2026. This covers grass cutting, maintenance of flower beds and hedge management across the public open spaces that the council own or manage. Full Council delegated authority to the Facilities Working group to review the specification for the contract and to invite quotes from local companies at the 8/12/2025 meeting (min.ref. 132.25.3) At the January 2026 Facilities Working Group meeting the specification was reviewed and Clerk was asked to contact 4 local companies to invite them for site visits and to quote. The existing contractor did not wish to quote due to ill health. Two further companies declined to quote and two companies came for site visits with Councillors and Clerk, in February 2026. The companies were asked to quote against the specification and to replant two highway flowerbeds with sustainable planting. One company only quoted for the specification and declined to quote for the flowerbeds. Both quotes were considered by the Facilities Working group at their February meeting and a recommendation was made to Full Council at the 9th March 2026 meeting. Both quotes were considered at the 9th March 2026 Full Council meeting and D.T. Grounds Maintenance Ltd. who quoted against the specification and the flowerbed replanting was approved by Full Council (min ref. 179.25.2) for a contract from 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2029, with a break clause and probationary review in October 2026. The cost to the council would be £6700 annually (£20,100 over length of contract) plus a one-off cost of £750 to replant the flowerbeds.

The work started on 1st April 2026

D.T. Grounds Maintenance Ltd. Company number 13019318

14 Hafod Cottages Parc Hafod, Llanymynech, Powys, United Kingdom, SY22 6NX

2. Streetlight Pole Replacement 2026-2027

Background:

Following the annual streetlight condition survey carried out in May 2025, the Facilities Working Group considered the report at their June meeting. It was found that 15 poles needed replacement (two were leaning and 13 concrete columns were deemed unsafe). Pontesbury Parish Council at their 9th June 2025 Meeting approved delegated authority to the Facilities Working group to seek quotes for the replacement of the two leaning poles in 2025-26 (min ref. 32.25.8) and the remaining concrete poles over 2026-27 and 2027-28 (Min. ref.32.25.9). Quotes were sought from three companies to replace the leaning and concrete poles over a three year period. One company did not respond, despite repeated attempts to contact and two quotes were received. One quote (Company 1.) was considerably higher than the other quote from Company 2. due to having to outsource the disconnecting and

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All prices indicated are exclusive of VAT

reconnecting of poles from National Grid. Company 2 were able to disconnect/reconnect to National Grid themselves. Both companies wished to review their prices each financial year. Clerk contacted National Grid to see if any further companies had this ability but was told that they did not know of any further companies. Therefore, the Facilities Working group recommended to Full Council at their 22nd September 2026 meeting to appoint Company 2 to undertake the work. Even against an annual review of prices Company 1 would have to outsource the disconnection/reconnection to National Grid. Full council approved E-on (Company 2) for the replacement pole (Min. Ref. 74.25.7 on 22/09/2026) for a total cost over financial years of 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 of £19334.21.

Three poles were replaced in 2025-26 at a cost of £3205.11

In April 2026 E-on quoted for a further 6 poles to be replaced in 2026-27 at a cost of £11,353. There were some additional costs with two poles as they were situated in the highway – 6 poles = £8923.50 + £2400 Traffic Management/Civils costs for tarmacking = £11,353.5. This was approved at Full Council Meeting on 11th May 2026 (Min.ref. 17.26.10)

Following training recommending aluminium rather than steel poles, for a longer life, Full Council approved an additional £600 (£100 per pole) for the 6 poles to be replaced in 2026-27 (Min.ref. 31.26.2) bringing the **total cost for 2026-27 to £11,950**

E.ON Energy Solutions Limited Company No: 3407430

Trinity House, 2 Burton Street Nottingham NG1 4BX

3. Public toilet cleaning contract

The current cleaning contract for the public toilets was due to expire on 10th July 2026. In May Clerk contacted four local companies and invited them to quote for cleaning the public toilets in Pontesbury on a three year contract. Two companies failed to respond and two quotes were received. At the 8th June 2026 Full Council meeting the two quotes were considered and Afresh C S Ltd were appointed at a cost of £4,659.72 annually (minimum of £13,979.16 over the three year contract). This price would be reviewed against National Minimum Wage and National Insurance contributions effective from 1st April each year. (Min ref. 31.26.1)

Contract began on 11th July 2026

Afresh C S Ltd Company No. 04568893

Beech House Anchorage Avenue Shrewsbury Business Park Shrewsbury

4. Pontesbury Play Area – Supply & Installation of new equipment

The Parish Council sent an invitation to quote to 5 x play equipment companies for a contract to supply and install equipment to replace old and outdated equipment.

The Facilities Working Group set up the Play Area Task & Finish Group, who worked through a 3-stage process to select one of the invited companies. One company wished to remove themselves from the process prior to public consultation.

The 3-stage process included:

- Interview of the play company representative
- Public consultation, both an open afternoon to speak to the play company representative and also a chance in the following 2 weeks to view the proposed designs and have a vote.
- Assessment of requirements and cost of equipment

The following recommendations were put before the Pontesbury Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th July 2026:

1. Following the 3-stage process, of interview, public consultation and requirements & financial assessment, the Play Area Task & Finish Group recommend to full Council that they appoint **SUTCLIFFE PLAY LTD** to undertake the refurbishment of the Pontesbury play area.
2. Council approve a maximum budget of £50,000 ex. VAT for the refurbishment project.
3. Council approve transfer of £8,000 EMR underspend for the public toilet refurbishment to the play area refurbishment EMR giving a total EMR of £50,000.

Pontesbury Parish Council agreed to the above recommendations:

1. Appointment of Sutcliffe Play Ltd (Min No: 51.26.1)
2. Maximum budget of £50,000 for play area refurbishment (Min No: 51.26.2)
3. Transfer of £8,000 from Earmarked Reserves underspend for the public toilet refurbishment to the play area refurbishment project (Min No: 51.26.3)

Total Project Costs – £49,999 + VAT

The work started on Monday 20th July 2026.

Sutcliffe Play Ltd, Waggon Lane, Upton, Pontefract, WF9 1JS

Company No: 00435546

5. Play Area – Replacement Play Sand and Grano Dust

Due to the play area being refurbished and for safety reasons the parish council are required to top up the play sand and supply a layer of grano dust for the BMX track.

Five companies were contacted to supply play sand and grano dust, only one company could provide supply and delivery.

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One additional company provided a quote to supply & install and another local company provided a quote to install only.

Following debate at a Council meeting, it was agreed that Pontesbury Parish Council would employ the services of the company to supply and install the play sand and grano dust.

Minute No: 52.26.2

Total Project Cost: Play Area Maintenance Budget: £5,228.57

Supplier: Sutcliffe Play Ltd, Waggon Lane, Upton, Pontefract, WF9 1JS

Work to be completed by Friday 31st July 2026

Company No: 00435546