Wickham Market Parish Council Environment and Leisure Committee

Report to August 14th 2023 and Update 11th December 2023

<u>Proposal to approve costs and authorise a tree surgeon to undertake tree work at the cemetery, VH playing field and Church Green Pightle</u>

The tree works schedule I prepared January 26th 2023 (attached) was approved by E&L. this set out works required for the following spaces:

- WM Cemetery
- VH Playing Field (some additional time will be needed to address safety work (see below) and southern boundary hedge pruning)
- Church Green Pightle reduction of holm oak

I have received a quotes (in three parts), previously circulated from AB Trees. Two other contractors (S Wight and the former ES Norse) have declined to quote due to workload despite attending site visits and doing work previously in the village green spaces.

Since January we (tree wardens) have identified some **additional safety tree** work required at the VH Playing field, due to the decline of one hawthorn and one Prunus tree (due to bark stripping). The southern boundary native hedge (planted in 2000) also needs to be pruned to ensure it does not get overgrown and lose its form, some of the blackthorn scrub needs to be cut back to prevent the footpath link from being too enclosed. Hedge last pruned in January 2021.

AB Trees quote includes chipping the arisings and placing in the cemetery wood chip bunker for use. Total £2405.00

Sonya Exton has contacted one other tree surgeon for a quote, The Small Tree Company.

We recommend that the WMPC authorise a spending of up to £3200k on the tree works (to include additional identified) and that a final decision is made on which contractor to use for which job if a further price is received.

If additional price cannot be secured we recommend that WMPC authorise AB Trees to carry out the work.

A Westover 10th August 2023

Updates for December 13th 2023

Further works requested to be carried out by Cllr Jenkinson at out site visit Village Hall Playing field

Trimming back blackthorn copses to ensure they do not conflict with walkers and tidy up northern hedge. I am keen not to cut this back too far as it is a wildlife corridor.

Additional large field maples to rear of Field View House

Further Quotes have now been received.

AB Trees Anton Bray

Pightle Holm Oak £710.00 WM Cemetery £1130.00

VH Playing Field £565 plus three days day rate @ £565.00

This will include felling of multi stem sycamore and front hedge pruning at Cemetery.

Total £4100.00

ESC Services Ltd Robert Slark

Cemetery only £1657.00

Small Tree Company

Cemetery and part of the work at VH Playing field only £2810.00

RECOMMENDATION

For Clerk to instruct AB Trees to carry work as specified with additional day works as costed.

Total £4100

Note I will continue to press UKPN to undertake pruning on holm oak I will also submit a TCA notification to ESC as advised by Tree Officer:

Dear Anne, There are two potential exemptions that are applicable.

- 1) 'The cutting down, uprooting, topping or lopping of a tree, to the extent that such works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm, or to such other extent as agreed in writing by the authority prior to the works being undertaken;'
- 2) 'the felling or lopping of a tree or the cutting back of its roots by or at the request of, or in accordance with a notice served by, a licence holder under paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 to the Electricity Act 1989(4) (other powers etc of licence holders felling and lopping of trees etc).'

Furthermore, if the danger is only in relation to its proximity to the utility apparatus then it would be expected that UKPN would act under their exemption status.

The second exemption applies only to tree works being carried out directly by UKPN or by a contractor on their behalf (e.g. BTS Group). If the works are to be undertaken by or on the instruction of Wickham Market Parish Council then the exemption would not be applicable and a S211 would be needed.

A Westover Tree Warden December 6th 2023