



WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Open Spaces Committee meeting on 1st August 2023

Agenda Item 9.4
01/08/2023

Allotment Tree Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 There have been a few queries this year about problematic trees on tenants' plots.
- 1.2 The current terms and conditions need updating so tenants have a clear idea of their responsibilities in relation to any trees on their plots when they take on their plot.

2.0 Report Details

- 2.1 A tenant has reported to the office a problem with an apple tree on a neighbouring plot, which overhangs his plot by at least 5 feet and large numbers of crab apples fall onto his plot (see Appendix A). The tree is on a plot belonging to a new tenant so it would be unfair for them to responsible for the work required to this tree.
- 2.2 The Grounds Manager has had a look and it is too high to cut back
- 2.3 The Allotments and Administration officer contacted Frank Donachie from SBC who has quoted £110 for his tree gang to prune the tree and £130 to remove the tree. He confirmed that trees on the allotment plots are the Parish responsibility.
- 2.4 The issue was recently discussed at the recent allotment working party on the 19th July and members proposed that the tree should be felled as this would be the cheapest option in case maintenance is needed in the future.
- 2.5 The Grounds manager confirmed that there are more trees on the allotments that could cause issues in the future.
- 2.6 The current terms and conditions need updating to include maintenance to trees. The Allotments and Administration Officer contacted a legal advisor from 'The National Allotment Society' who stated the following:

Such an amendment that you are suggesting should not be applied retrospectively to current tenants and only be applied to new tenants. This way, the plot can effectively be taken on "as seen" so the new tenant understands that they are taking on the responsibility for the full plot, including managing trees.

Kind regards,
Tyler Harris
Legal Adviser



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3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 To agree to allow the plot holder whose plot the tree is on to decide whether the tree on their plot should be pruned or removed.**
- 3.2 To appoint SBC tree gang to undertake the work to either prune or remove the tree at a maximum cost of £130 to be met from the allotment maintenance budget 350/4400, which is a total of £750 for 2023/24.**
- 3.2 To amend the wording of the terms and conditions for new tenants to state the following:**

The tenant will be responsible for the maintenance of any existing trees on their plot including cutting smaller overhanging branches back. Larger trees may need professional maintenance which the tenant(s) is responsible for arranging and for paying costs. Any tree surgery work must be agreed by the council before the tenant enters into any contract for work to be carried out.

The tenant shall not plant any tree without the express written consent of the Council prior to planting. If permission is granted then a maximum of only two dwarf fruit trees would be permitted and this must be at least two metres away from the boundary of neighbouring allotments.