

## **Wroughton Parish Council**

### **Open Spaces Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

#### **8. Tree Works: update following the Arboriculture Survey**

##### **Introduction**

Bawden Tree Care carried out an arboriculture (tree) survey in July 2022 on various areas of land within the Parish, for which the Parish Council is responsible. The survey splits the parish into small geographic areas (eg: Belmont Green). It identifies each tree or group of trees, and then details the work which needs to be carried out with advice as to the timescale. The Grounds Team Manager has checked and all the work advised as critical/ to be carried out within 1 month was carried out by a contractor in 2022.

I have listed by geographic areas, the work which is advised to be carried out within 3, 6 and 12 months, and the type of work which needs to be done. A copy of the list is attached to the agenda. This comprises work to a total of 112 trees. It is anticipated that these works will be a significant cost and recommend that it is budgeted over the next 3 years.

I have emailed 4 tree surgeons to ask for quotes to carry out the work advised to be done within 3 months plus the PICUS test on the largest horse chestnut tree on the Moat, which comprises work to 31 trees. One tree surgeon has responded advising they have too much work and cannot quote. Another advised they will quote but cannot do the work until the Spring.

There is approx. £4,500 left in the 2023-24 budget for tree works which will be insufficient to carry out the work advised to be done within 3 months. This may be used by the end of the current financial year for urgent tree work – a resident recently raised a concern about a tree on Parish Council land behind their garden, and we are investigating how quickly that work needs to be carried out, and the extent of that work.

The Arboriculture Survey is lengthy. It is available to view on VSM or to read in the office as a paper copy.

##### **Recommendations:**

1. Once received, the Deputy Clerk brings the quotes to the following Open Spaces meeting for the Committee to recommend to Full Council that this is budgeted for 2024-25, and also to approve a quote – assuming the budget is agreed.
2. Assuming 1 above is agreed, the Deputy Clerk to get the work booked as soon as possible in the 2024-25 financial year.
3. If the quotes are not received before the budget needs to be put to Council, then the Committee recommends Council puts £30k into the budget.
4. Towards the end of 2024, the Deputy Clerk to get quotes for the work advised to be carried out within 6 months (51 trees) with a view to putting this into the budget for the 2025-26 financial year.