

Wickham Market Parish Council Environment and Leisure Committee

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

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

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

