

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

WM Cemetery (and other tree works) updates February 2023

Item 13

Work parties being undertaken on third Thursday of each month to undertake the regular extra conservation management work; young and semi mature tree care, bramble and elder clearance, tidying rubbish. New planting of trees, hedge plants and protecting from rabbit damage. Mulch/wood chip spreading around trees.

Rabbits

Rabbit activity increasing as there were no control measures put in place last year, quote for control from Norse was not actioned. Note previous two reports addressing this matter. Damage from rabbits include direct damage to trees (roots and bark stripping), young hedges, undermining stone work, 'spreading' memorial flowers, grass sward/holes in the ground, and digging/eating bulbs. Burrows are located at the west end of the cemetery under and around mature trees. All damage is costly and incurs extra volunteer time to remedy. Plastic tree protection must be upgraded and replaced and is not attractive (all donated materials). Holes in ground and damaged stonework can lead to volunteer and visitor safety issues. Damage to young planting including donated trees is costly.

Norse have updated their quote for rabbit burrow gassing Feb 2023; 2 visits for £450. Gassing using pellets is the usual form of control where it is not possible to shoot, trap or use ferrets. Burrows are filled in after second visit and the ground levelled.

An informal verbal quote of approx. £1000 has been provided by a local pest control company.

Hayward Farms, James Hayward is willing to shoot but this will cost some £20 per hour, unknown time element and not acceptable to shoot within the cemetery boundary. Burrows will not be filled by this measure.

Recommendation:

I propose that WMPC instruct Norse to undertake rabbit control detailed and priced in their email dated 30th January 2023, two visits £450.

'Paddock'

Consider removing barbed wire fence within the cemetery; the boundary to former paddock, now being cut and is included in the proposed contract wording.

A better understanding on the role of the handyman in the cemetery, (matters raised in CG meeting notes August/October 2022) would be helpful for volunteers.

Can R Ellis remove barbed wire and at a lower price and remove decayed flowers and wreaths?

If it is not possible to request that handyman removes barbed wire I propose that WMPC instruct Norse to remove this at a cost of £425.00 as priced in their email dated 30th January 2023. This could be delayed until later in the year.

Snowdrops

Cost of snowdrop bulbs 500 (some to be planted in Pightle Green) Clare Bulbs £84.25. Some 3000 have been planted over the last 15 years and are currently making a good display. Volunteers to plant after 16th February.

I propose that WMPC fund these from monies allocated by Cllrs Chenery and Dempsey Gray in budget. Snowdrop planting has previously been funded by WMPC and public donations.

Item 11

Tree works identified in specification circulated on January 26th 2023

Cemetery

One quote received from AB Trees following a site meeting 4th February 2023.

£1,130.00 all arising to be chipped and stored in the bunker for use as mulch. Two days work.

Quotes to be updated when two more received.

Cemetery tree work could be take place in Autumn/Winter 2023. No immediate safety issues.

Church Pightle Green

Holm oak quote, one received AB Trees £710.00 for work to make tree safe, take off care home roof and create attractive shape. One day plus contact with UK Power networks and Cathena Care. I have already notified them that we intend cutting the tree back from their flat roof and site area.

Recommendation

I propose that WMPC approve lowest quote for work once three have been received.

However as this is a tree safety matter you may wish to proceed with AB quote and accept this promptly.

UK Power Networks will need to cut off supply (no charge) to enable works to proceed.

Village Hall Playing Field

Quote to prune three field maple trees to rear of 2 Birch Close (due to neighbour concerns). This work is not essential and could be delayed to late 2023, as a better time of year to prune field maple. Arisings to be chipped and deposited at the cemetery in the bunker.

AB quote received £565.00 One day rate.

Other updates:

Parish Environment Group (green gym volunteers)

Thank you to Cllr Carol Poulter for providing funding £220.00 (Locality budget) for spinney planting (hedging and stakes) on Chapel Lane and Java Lodge Road. Joint application with Pettistree PC.

Funding to be claimed once funding is received by WMPC from ESC Melissa Williams. Acceptance form sent back to ESC 27th January and copied to Clerk and Cllr Chenery.

Regular work parties are attracting a good group of volunteers keen to plant and care for trees.

Village Hall

Happy to help with planting for the four new planters (New Burdens Fund).

I have spoken/met with Philip Tallent and discussed a suitable approach. We also discussed watering and 'ash trays'. I am happy to make a start on sourcing plants.

Hopefully some will be donated too.

Church Pightle Green

Jennie Greenhalgh has offered to assist with sourcing three new fruit/flowering trees.

S Eaton has offered to fund one flowering cherry.

I am happy to donate a lime tree (home grown in pot) to plant near the hornbeam at the Coronation Event.

Footpaths Warden

Simon Harrington has come forward and offered to look at taking on this role. He is already an active participant in green gym events. Note my email of 1st February.

I will contact Janet and Terry Peake to see if they can assist with background information in addition to maps and leaflets, contacts which we also have.

I am hoping this may give us the possibility of getting a new walks route planned for the blue Gallows Route and then get the Discover Suffolk walks leaflet re-published. Joanne Chapman ESC is checking out funding for us too through/with SCC.

Cllr Anne Westover

Tree warden and Cemetery Group

7th February 2023

Attached cemetery notes from 2022 and reports regarding rabbit activity dated 2021 and 2022 for context and detail.