

Parish Council Report

Subject: Moot Lane Corner - proposed tree work
Date: 4th August 2021
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1. Report Summary

At an Amenities Committee meeting on 21st June 2021, a request from residents was considered to tidy up and remove two trees from the Green where Moot Lane meets Lode Hill. It was also suggested that one of the existing green metal benches, currently at the bottom of the slope could be moved up onto the Green. This green area is currently owned by Wiltshire Council. Officers were requested to source quotations for the work, for consideration at a future meeting. This report focuses on the tree work at this stage, as the decision and potential work may have a bearing on the relocation of the bench (which must be approved by a separate department - WC Street scene) and its future position.

2. Background to quotation details

Richard Murphy, Tree and Woodland officer at Wiltshire Council has been contacted, prior to requesting quotations to establish if WC would be likely to approve such work as the landowner. He confirmed the following via email:

'Thank you for the email regarding the trees on the corner of Moot Lane, as you are aware Wiltshire Councils tree management is solely focused on safety issues rather than undertaking work for aesthetics so we would not be able to help in this situation.

I do not have any objections to your proposed scheme on the trees, however in situations such as this where another organisation or person wishes to pay for trees to be worked on or removed on Wilts Council land we request that they use one of our approved contractors. This way we can ensure that the contractor undertaking the work on the councils land is appropriately qualified and insured. I've attached the list of our approved contractors for your info.

As trees are going to be removed will the parish council plant replacement trees? They do not need to be of a same species as those removed or even re-planted in the same location as this is not always appropriate.'

Three contractors were recommended by Richard Murphy and met Alison onsite to discuss the tree work and provide a quotation, to ensure that the quotations are as comparable as possible. Contact has been made with the allotments in Wick Lane and rather than pay to remove any chippings that arise, these will be delivered to the allotments for use on paths or similar.

3. Quotations

The following tasks have been identified for quotation purposes:

*Dismantle 2 x western red cedar to low stumps.
Fell/dismantle 1 x dead stem and 1 x Prunus to rear of western red cedars to low stumps.
Reduce lateral growth only on 1 x Prunus to approximately the edge of the grassed area.
Crown lift 1 x Persian ironwood to approximately two metres above ground level.
Dismantle 1 x twin stemmed sycamore growing from base of Persian ironwood to low stump and ecoplug.
Chip existing pile of brushwood by western red cedars and all resultant brushwood and tip on allotment site.
Removal of all other arisings from site.*

*Grind 2 x western red cedar stumps, 1 x dead stem stump, 1 x Prunus stump and 1 x stump in grass area to approximately 150mm below ground level.
Piling of arisings in situ.*

- a) WRC Ecology & Arboriculture
Total: £1520.00 (ex. VAT of £304.00)
- b) Ridleaves
Total: £1300.00 (ex. VAT of £260.00)
- c) Tree Technique
Total: £1845.00 (ex. VAT of £369.00)

4. Recommendations

To consider the three quotations and agree:-

- a) The scope of the work
- b) Select a contractor from the three quotations provided (the three companies have been suggested by Richard Murphy as approved WC contractors and the companies he uses for any work in the Downton area).
- c) Any other requirements for the project (regarding communication with residents/immediate neighbours of the Green).
- d) To consider reseeding the area with grass seed as part of the project (Ridleaves has supplied an additional price of £500 + VAT to rotavate the cleared area in preparation for grass seeding).
- e) To consider planting some fruit trees on the green to add to the existing apple tree as a 'small community orchard' in the future. The WC tree officer has confirmed that this would be considered favourably. An agreement would need to be drafted as DPC would need to take on future responsibility for the care of the trees planted.

Alison McGowan
Administration Officer