

## Notes following the meeting of the Trees Working Group (Datchworth Parish Council).

Date: 12.06.23

Venue: 12 Raffin Park.

Present: Cllrs. Wood, Groves, Goodman.

Issues discussed:

1. Tree Management Policy. Due for review May, 2023. Minor changes discussed. Agreed that the Policy should be reviewed every three years rather than one, as at present. This will conform with the timed Tree Survey work. The working group proposals to be reported to next available Full Council meeting (27th June?).
2. Tree Survey. This is unavailable. Understood that it was conducted in 2020 and due for re-survey this year (August?). Clerk does not have a copy. Cllr. Wood to obtain a copy from Gristwood & Toms (who conducted the survey).

Re-survey has already been budgeted for.

With regard to actions arising from the 2020 survey, Cllr. Groves believes that all necessary actions defined as red/amber have been carried out.

With regard to the forthcoming 2023 survey, there is a need to obtain the previous list of those companies who quoted in 2020. Quotations need to be sought (minimum 3). Expected that quotations will be lower this year given that 2023 will be a re-survey of trees previously surveyed. (n.b. Prior to 2020 it is believed that no tree survey had been undertaken for almost 20 years)

Cllr. Groves to confirm minimum qualifications needed for companies/individuals to undertake a proper arboriculture survey (Level 4 Diploma in Agriculture and LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Qualification)?

3. Review of Tree Management/Maintenance. Discussion took place regarding options available for going forward. In 2021 a suggestion was apparently tabled to change the current arrangement but this was not implemented. This related to transferred to a 'tree maintenance and inspection contract (3 years)'.

The two options going forward from this point are, to:

- a) Carry on with the three yearly tree survey and seek quotations as appropriate to carry out identified necessary work;
- b) Hand-over tree management and maintenance to an appropriate contractor following suitable tendering/quotation.

The advantages and drawbacks of both options were discussed and it was agreed that on balance retaining the current arrangement (option 1) would be the most desirable.

Actions arising:

- CG to confirm appropriate qualifications needed for tree surveyor.
- AW to contact Gristwood and Toms for a copy of the current tree survey.
- DG notes of meeting to be provided to clerk for attachment to next Full Council agenda (appendix).
- Clerk/DG. Once Option (a) is agreed by Full Council, quotations be sought for tree re-survey.
- DG. Tree Management Plan to be updated and reported to Full Council for agreement; (does anyone have a 'Word' copy of the 2023 document)?