

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

2nd November 2022 Parish Council Meeting



Agenda Item 22.387.9: Appointment of Tree Specialist to Fell Spinney Trees

1. Background

In the last two or three years Ash die-back has attacked almost all the Ashes in the spinney. The trees loose leaves, then the dead branches rain down in the wind and finally the trees themselves become unsafe after several years.

The suspect trees in the spinney have been dot-marked - yellow for obviously infected and red dot for urgent action necessary. 31 ash trees have been marked, the only ones to be left unmarked are the few along the roadside and two trees almost furthest from the road.

The recommendation from the tree specialist is to fell all 31 trees in one go, which would be the most economic way of dealing with the problem.

The tree felling specification is as follows:-

Fell the approximately 31 trees, avoiding the mature oaks and as many of the saplings as possible, cut off the upper branches of the felled trees and gather these into piles off the paths through the spinney making habitat piles, and then cut the larger wood into carriable lengths (3-4 ft) and leave these in the spinney for villagers to remove for firewood.

2. Quotes, Recommendation and Budget Lines

Quotes (attached) to undertake the tree felling have been obtained in the short time period from:

- **Bicester Tree Services:** £1000.00 plus VAT
- **Young's Tree Services:** £1,650.00 plus VAT

The Works Advisory Group has discussed the quotes received and are recommending appointing Bicester Tree Services for the project; this is based on their competitive quote and past experience of working in the village.

The fees for this work will come from the following budget lines:

- Village Works/Spinney maintenance: £970.00 remaining in 2022/23 budget
- Village Works/Village tree works: £750.00 remaining in 2022/23 budget

3. **Resolution: To Approve** the quote from Bicester Tree Services for the recommended felling of trees located in the spinney affected by ash dieback for £1,000.00 + VAT.