

## Notes from the meeting with Arborcure on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Present: Councillors Carole Spencer, Wendy Haymes and Jackie Taylor (Bickleigh Parish Council) and John Dean (Arborcure)

The meeting took place on site at Roborough Green. The following subjects were covered:

### 1. The large oak tree on the corner of the Parish Plot

John explained the tree risk assessment process to councillors and showed them how the results were obtained. The tree is not considered to be a risk: there are no signs of decay or fungi at the base and no visual defects at ground level. There will inevitably be some deadwood in the canopy because this is a natural process but there were no visible signs of any dead or damaged larger limbs which could be a problem. Councillors could understand that the neighbour may consider the tree to be a large one for the plot but agreed that there were no grounds for the PC to take action. The neighbour is, however, at liberty to apply themselves to the Tree Office at SHDC to carry out work.

### 2. Hedges on Roborough Green

The hedge along Carron Lane will be cut this autumn. Councillors requested that the top be maintained at its current height so as to provide screening for when the new housing is built on the other side. John suggested planting more native trees along the hedge line to increase the buffer between the Green and the building area and councillors agreed to consider this option and to see if S106 money could be allocated from Barwood for this.

The hedges at the southern end of the Green will be cut this year. Councillors requested that they are cut across the full depth of the tops but only on the side facing the Green. The height of the hedges will be maintained at the current levels.

3. There is a damaged cherry tree in the group next to the path and this will be cut down to leave a monolith.

### 4. Grass Cutting

Councillors discussed the conflict between residents who would like to leave some areas for wildflowers and those who like to see the grass cut short. They are keen to support the environment but agreed that a policy was needed in order to manage expectations. It was agreed to look at the grass cutting maps and decide which areas could be left for wildflowers and which should be cut regularly. The area in Ferndale which is long at the moment will be cut on the next round and the Clerk will contact the resident who requested that it be left to grow to explain the above.

Councillor Haymes asked about the time of cutting, which had been very early on one occasion over the summer. It was agreed that cutting would not take place before 8am without consultation.

### 5. Weeds in roadways and gutters

Councillors discussed the need to remove the weeds which are growing along the edges of roadways around the Parish which are blocking gutters and looking untidy. The advice was to remove them mechanically rather than spray them because the soil and vegetation needs to be removed, not just the plants. Spraying them would require a lot of glyphosate and would still leave dead weeds in place. They may need to be managed with spot spraying once the bulk is removed. Arborcure was asked to provide a quote for doing this in Woolwell, Roborough and Bickleigh. A decision will then be made depending on the cost.