

Committee:	FULL COUNCIL
Date:	18th March 2019
Agenda Item	7d

Churchyard tree maintenance

The need for work to be done was agreed at the Council meeting in October 2018

Extract from Minutes of 15 October 2018

096. MANAGEMENT OF CHURCHYARD TREES. It was said that a member of public had expressed views about the trees and the Tree Officer from Braintree DC had been consulted. A plan for work on the trees had been drawn up and cost of necessary maintenance had been determined at £3500.00. Work for some proposed aesthetic work - to open up the aspect of churchyards was costed at £4500.00. It was noted that there is no budget allowance for this work in 2018/19, but work would need to be considered when budget for coming year(s) are drawn up. It was said that Council has legal responsibility to maintain the land and Cllr Pell asked if any trees were in a dangerous condition and should be attended to in the near future. It was said that if danger from any particular trees is perceived then work would be carried out immediately after consultation with Mayor, however, at present no danger has been highlighted. **Cllr Warren proposed that necessary works be noted and that expenditure to carry out necessary maintenance and aesthetic works be considered at budget seminar in December 2018. Proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Sutton and carried by unanimous vote.**

The budget for the year 19/20 was approved at the Council meeting on 14 January:

7E. Budget and Precept 2019/20. Cllr Radley noted that these proposals would only be for one month of the current Council's term but that the budget would carry forward for the new Council if agreed. It was noted that the Localism Grant from BDC was now reduced to zero because of reduction in their funding from central government and that Council tax would be raised by 2% giving a precept for Halstead TC of £179,014.00 which it was felt was reasonable and would allow for a surplus to be transferred to earmarked reserves to fund future expenditure liabilities. Cllr Mrs Pell noted that all matters on the report had been discussed at the Budget Seminar and suggested that Budget Precept 2019/20 and Long Term Financial Plan be adopted. Cllr Fox asked further questions and suggested that instead of 2% the increase in Council Tax should be 4%. Cllr Radley said that 2% would be prudent and allow for surplus particularly as more houses were being marketed meaning more revenue for the Town Council. Cllr Radley said that all matters had been discussed at the Budget Seminar, and **Cllr Radley moved proposal to accept the report as written. Cllr Warren seconded this proposal and vote was taken. Proposal was adopted with 1 abstention.**

Extract from Budget report 14 January 2019 showing the £3500 set aside for the tree work

	31/03/18	2018/19		31/03/19	2019/20	Budget Surplus Transfer 31/3/20	31/03/20
	Year End	Forecast Spend	Budget Transfer 31/3/19	Year End Forecast	Forecast Spend		Year End Forecast
Revenue Items	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Election costs	7,000		5,000	12,000	8,000	2,000	6,000
Parking orders and signage	1,823		500	2,323	500	500	2,323
Car Parks major maintenance	5,000		3,500	8,500		2,000	10,500
Rewire Queens Hall	1,000		3,000	4,000		2,000	6,000
QH major maintenance	0		1,086	1,086		0	1,086
Major tractor/van repairs	2,000		1,000	3,000		0	3,000
Empire Theatre roof	2,000		2,500	4,500		4,000	8,500
Kings Rd toilets	3,000	3,000	0	0		0	0
Op London Bridge/Coronation			1,000	1,000		515	1,515
Churchyard major maintenance			3,500	3,500	3,500	2,000	2,000
Riverside bridge repair				0		3,000	3,000
New Community Centre				0		5,000	5,000
Long Term Capital Items							
Tractor replacement				0			
Van replacement				0			
Equipment at Courtaulds				0		5,000	5,000
Car park machines				0			
Total	21,823	3,000	21,086	39,909	12,000	26,015	53,924

A Faculty has now been applied for to carry out this work. Once the Faculty is granted, work should start in April/May 2019 as agreed. The quotes for the work were

1. £3400
2. £3480
3. £6180

Recommendation: that HTC agrees to this expenditure on the major maintenance work in the churchyards with the contractor who most closely matches the agreed expenditure.

Sarah Greateorex

Sarah Greateorex
Town Clerk