

## **AGENDA ITEM 14 – TREE OVERHANGING ALLOTMENT PLOT**

**Recommendation** – that the Parish Council agrees to crown reduce the oak tree by approx. 2-3m so as not to overhang/shade one of the allotment plots

### **Background**

The owner of plot 1a has been complaining about an oak tree on the allotment boundary overhanging and partly shading his plot for some months as it makes part of his plot unusable. As a result the plot owner was only charged half the plot rent this year (a reduction of £10). I advised the Allotment Association that the Parish Council would consider carrying out work to the tree over Autumn/Winter.

A quote has been obtained from a contractor used by the Parish Council for other tree work and the cost to reduce the oak crown by 2-3m to remedy the issue would be £440 plus VAT.

The Allotments should be self-funding, and any underspend is transferred to an Allotment earmarked reserve to cover extra works such as tree and some of the biennial hedge cutting costs – this is to ensure the funds remain ring-fenced. There is £2,492.24 in this reserve so the funds are available. There is unlikely to be much or any underspend on the revenue side this year as the hedges are being cut and we have had some other tree work done. There have been lower water charges this year due to the wetter spring and summer and this will likely offset any additional hedge cutting costs. The balance on the reserve at year end therefore is predicted to be around £2,000 should this work be undertaken.

The Clerk has checked the saved TPO maps of the village and there are no TPOs on any of the trees abounding the allotments other than the large oaks on the southeastern side, bordering Blenheim Court, which are assessed every 2 years.

**Debbie Bird**  
**Clerk to Willand Parish Council**  
**November 2024**