# Agenda Item 155.19/20

# Clerk’s Report to Full Council Meeting 24 February 2020

## Tree Survey Recommendations

The recent tree survey identified high priority works to a group of willows along the bank of Parr’s Pool due to rot in the stems and close proximity to footpaths. It was recommended that the works to fell or coppice the trees be undertaken within 90 days of the survey, (19 December 2019).

Medium High priority work was identified to the Cedar tree on the Common; to remove broken branches and significant dead wood from the crown.

Three quotations for the works were obtained from suitably qualified tree surgeons, the lowest amounting to £1,550 from Canopy Tree Care.

In view of the urgency of the work Canopy Tree Care has been instructed to undertake the work as soon as possible. The earliest date they could programme the work is on 2 and 3 March 2020.

As the bird nesting season is generally considered to start on 1 March, the Contractor will undertake daily observations before commencing any work to check for nesting birds. Should any active nests be identified the work will be halted and a professional ecologist consulted for advice.

During the work the footpath will be closed to the public. The Contractor has provided details of his public liability insurance.

Removal of these trees will make the Parr’s Pool area much lighter and more open, but may prompt complaints. The reason for the work has been explained in the March Villager. The Council may wish to consider planting replacement trees in the next appropriate season.

## Storm Damage

Storm Ciara caused some damage to trees. An old hawthorn on the football field broke in half and fell onto a boundary fence causing damage to fence and gate panels. The tree has been removed and the owner contacted to discuss repairs.

A number of branches broke from the cedar tree on the Common, (mentioned above). It was necessary to call a tree surgeon to remove a suspended branch from above the bench but all clean up works were subsequently carried out by council staff. A small tree on the edge of the Common also broke in half and was cleared by our staff.

A tree from the private wood next to the BMX track fell into the track but was cleared by the landowner.

A large branch broke off from the trees in the pavilion car park and was cleared by council staff.

Some minor damage to the astro turf fence has been identified and will be repaired as soon as practicable.

## Lyth Hill and Bayston Hill 10K Run

A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared for the agreement of all parties. A copy has been shared with Longden Parish Council and Shropshire Council for comments and all parties invited to sign their agreement.

## Local Government Pay Negotiations

These have been delayed by the recent election and are unlikely to be agreed before April

## Internal Audit

A meeting has been arranged with the Internal Auditor, Mrs Diane Malley on 20 February 2020 and in April to sign off the Annual Return.

## Office 365 Business Emails

Web Orchard will charge £260 for migration of the Clerk’s email account to Office 365, keeping the same email address. This is in addition to the annual commitment for the email service agreed at the January meeting. As this will improve security the costs can be met from the GDPR budget which is currently underspent.

## Shropshire Council Working Group

In light of the discontinuance of the LJC meetings and Town and Parish Council Forum, SALC is suggesting this working group acts as the main liaison point between Shropshire Council and Town & Parish Councils. A meeting is being held on Thursday 27 February 2020 and the Council may wish to send a representative. The group is likely to consider the need for a boundary review and resurrection of a Parish Charter.

## Clerk’s Networking Meeting & Training Day

A wide ranging training event is being planned jointly by SALC and SLCC on 3 April. It will cover a range of topics including the London Bridge Protocol; Climate change; Emergency Planning; Website Accessibility Regulations; NALC Employment Guidance and Planning. It is hoped that sufficient sponsorship can be attracted to make the event free to attend. It will take place at the football ground.