

Llangammarch Community Council

Finance Committee Meeting, 9th November 2022 at 10.00am

At the Riverside Gardens for site visit then to Alexandra Hall for meeting

Present: Cllr Kay Coldrick, Cllr Clare Butterfield-Elsey, Cllr Jon Hather, Cllr Anne Woods, Sue Lilly (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** none
2. **Discussion**

There was a lot of discussion over the visit to the trees in the Riverside Gardens.

3. Discussion of the Quotes

3 quotes were sent in, each detailing trees to be dealt with, and there were some differences.

After advice from the senior Clerk in Powys (AW), quote 4 was confirmed to not be valid, even though there had been an opportunity given to clarify the original received on the 2/11/2022. The adjusted quote was received on the 6/11/2022. However, the advice from Clerk AW still stands.

The quotes 1,2,3 were not able to be dealt with fairly when compared to quote 4. Quote 4 had had the benefit of knowing what quotes 1,2 and 3 were, as these had been shared with council members. Also, see NALC/LCC Financial Regulations 11.1 g) 11:2.a) - Quote 4 was not given to the Clerk before the Council Meeting on the 2/11/2022, so that it could be presented anonymously. Due to the local nature of three of the quotes, this was an important factor. If the Council were to move with Quote 4 it would be breaking its own Financial Regulations.

Advice from MR was not a quote, but simply advice, given at the request of Cllr Mairwen Price.

Quote 1 – it was agreed that some tree knowledge was lacking with this quote. This together with the price meant Quote 1 was dismissed. (Total £3850)

Quote 2 – an excellent quote, if the council were to move with this quote, evidence of insurance would be needed. (Total £2100, less £300 if chippings were to be left)

Quote 3 – an excellent quote that benefited from being divided into three sections, depending what the council wanted to do and how much money it wanted to spend. (Final Total £2400)

Quotes 1,2,3 all included leaving the wood into useable section or cord lengths and chip piles left for the community to use.

4. Discussion of what tree work was necessary

In the light of MR's report and the information from Quote 2 and 3 it was agreed that (from the 2020 tree survey):

Tree 2 - white oak - crown reduction or pollarding (it is not a native tree and is growing very fast. It is also situated close to the toilet block.

Trees 3,4,5 – the cherries by the roadside path – need crown reduction and tidying up. Cherries 3 and 4 especially.

Tree 6 – the large ash in the centre of the garden, overlooking the barbeque spot – this needs removing.

5. Not needed now

Tree 12 (ash) and tree (16) sycamore are both on the river bank. The ash is at low level dieback and the sycamore does not have a totally open cavity and still shows strong growth. Since the council is covered in insurance terms by the inspection done in 2020, neither tree must be dealt with now.

Similarly, the beech (10) does not have to be dealt with now. However, its removal would give other species more room to grow.

6. The future

Quote no 3 was comprehensive and offered a way forward to deal with the tree issues in Riverside.

7. Agreement of Advice to the Council

The above points were re-iterated and it was unanimously agreed to put them to the full council for discussion.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input.

Meeting finished at 11.250am.