

# St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

## Report #11.3

### Corston Local Nature Reserve Maintenance

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To invite the council to fund essential emergency maintenance in the Corston LNR.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. As a result of the recent unseasonal weather an apple tree has fallen into the pond. Due to the size of the tree and the height of the water level in the pond it is considered unwise for the small group of volunteers who routinely undertake maintenance work in the reserve to attempt to remove the tree. It has been assessed that the work would be most safely and efficiently undertaken by a professional who has access to the appropriate equipment.
- 2.2. In addition to this task, there is a need to coppice several mature overhanging willows which are in the pond. The work to lift the apple tree will require a winch.
- 2.3. A local experienced professional who has previously worked on tree issues in the LNR has provided the following quotation.
  1. Remove uprooted apple tree from pond, chip all arising waste and spread on footpath, stack all larger logs in habitat piles - £350 (1 day + wood chipper)
  2. Coppice lower branches of willow on north-east side of pond (adjacent to apple tree) chip all arising waste and spread on footpath, stack all larger logs in habitat piles - £175 (1/2 day + wood chipper)
  3. Coppice lower branches of willow on south-west side of pond, chip all arising waste and spread on footpath, stack all larger logs in habitat piles - £175 (1/2 day + wood chipper)
  4. The above quotation is based upon a number of the volunteers assisting with the cutting up of the branches. To liaise with the LNR manager to identify two days when volunteers are available.

#### 3. Options

- 3.1. To consider the work unnecessary
- 3.2. To agree to fund the essential requirements outlined in 2.3 above up to a cost of £950 which provides a contingency should insufficient volunteers be available to assist as indicated.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. The council is able to service the cost of this proposal from its general reserves.

#### 5. Recommendation

- 5.1. The council is recommended to support Option 3.2.