

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY DECEMBER 13TH 2022

Item 11 – Report on Splitwind Pond Maintenance

BACKGROUND

At the November 8th 2022 Council meeting Cllr. Rhodes reported that a group from the Greening Campaign had started work on clearing vegetation from around Splitwind Pond and that work on removing vegetation from within the pond is being discussed with local experts.

The work on clearing vegetation from around the perimeter of the pond has gone extremely well with all of the *salix caprea* (Goat Willow) cut down and brambles etc, removed. The cut branches have been placed at the rear of the pond and are gradually being “chipped” by one of the volunteers as time allows, although professional intervention may be required

Risk assessments have been prepared for all of the activities currently being undertaken by the Greening Copythorne volunteers.

Some of the water borne vegetation has also been carefully removed from just inside the pond itself and these has resulted in the water in the pond being fully visible for the first time in a couple of years. Discussions regarding the removal of more vegetation from further into the pond has been discussed with a locally based firm of ecology surveyors and their formal guidance is awaited.

CURRENT POSITION

The work undertaken so far has resulted in the following needs:-

1. Purchase of an additional two pair of waders – Estimate £100
2. Signage to show that pond is being restored by volunteers from Greening Copythorne – Estimate £200
3. Possible engagement of a “tree surgeon to chip the *salix* and remove the chippings – Estimate £200
4. The attendance by fifteen volunteers at an educational event being arranged by the Sustainability Centre - Cost £150

RECOMMENDATION

1. That items 1,2 & 3 be actioned from funds within the “Splitwind Pond” budget line (£550 remains)
2. That item 4 be purchased from funds within the “Climate Emergency” budget line (£439 remains)

David Rigby
Clerk/RFO
November 28th 2022