

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH 2020

Item 9. Splitwind Pond Maintenance Programme

Following reports at our October 8th 2019 and November 12th 2019 meetings a programme of winter maintenance works as below was approved based on recommendations contained within the Splitwind Pond Management Plan (see <https://www.copythorne.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/splitwindpondmanplan.pdf> for details)

Activity	Frequency	When	Details
Grass cutting	To be carried out three times per year	May August November	Mow a 3 foot strip of highway verges, all of main triangle at road junction and other grass areas
Clear pond vegetation	2 x in one year	October November	Pull any bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) growing in pond centre and northern edge. Control other plant growth within main body of pond by manual means. Hand pulling, digging out or raking. Non-native species such as Australian swamp stonecrop (<i>Crassula helmsii</i>), New Zealand pygmy weed and parrots feather (<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>) should be removed as much as possible and discouraged from colonising the pond.
Tree pruning	As and when needed	October - January	Prune back overhanging branches. Cut back limbs to allow light and prevent leaf fall into pond
Strimming	To be carried out three times per year	August November March	Strim slope side to pond edges to height of 100mm. All of area behind pond (North side) 100mm. Taking care not to clear young tree growth and around cherry trees (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Leaf collection	Leaves cleared after leaf fall	October November December	Leaves should be collected and removed from edge and road side grass strip

Unfortunately, a combination of factors including poor weather and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that whilst items 2-5 were completed, it wasn't possible to even start item 1 before the end of the safe period for works (Great Crested Newt season).

The weather conditions over the spring and summer have given rise to a strong regrowth of the Goat Willow around the pond and I have already asked our contractor to undertake this work as soon as possible using some of the budget already allocated to Splitwind Pond maintenance. His workload though means that this is unlikely take place before mid December.

With regards to the clearing of the pond vegetation itself (which has also seen stronger than usual growth) I am seeking guidance from our friends at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust as to the best way of tackling this. Once this guidance has been received I will bring recommendations to council for the work involved.

David Rigby, Parish Clerk
October 1st 2020