

Date: 01 October 2020

Title: Report Item 12 – Maintenance work at Friston Pond

By: Cllr P Hill

Purpose: To set out the need for expenditure £700 in excess of the budgetary provision

Recommendations: To approve the expenditure and virement

A quotation has been obtained from Rustic Gardens for the works required to Friston Pond which has been produced on the basis of daily rates and allowances.

Over the last 3 or 4 weeks I have contacted a series of Pond Contractors in and around our area and have failed to get anyone other than Rustic Gardens to either visit or quote for the works required at the pond.

As we all know the pond is completely overgrown and needs to be cleared during September to avoid disturbing wildlife in the autumn period. We have had a number of complaints about the state of the pond and I therefore suggest that in the absence of any other quotations we accept the rates of Rustic Gardens and arrange for the works to be done early in October.

I will personally supervise the works and monitor the time taken to ensure best value. I am hoping that all the works can be undertaken in the time limits quoted but please rest assured that no increase in time or expenditure will be authorised without prior agreement from Councillors.

We do have a budget allocation of £1500 for this work but the cost of removal of the excess is what was not fully appreciated when setting the budget.

These are difficult circumstances but we need to act swiftly otherwise the pond will fall further into disrepair over the winter and spring periods.

Note by the clerk: a recommendation for virement will be produced with the monthly Budget Monitoring Report for the period ended 30 September.