

MINUTES

For the Extraordinary Meeting of Parish Council – 24th January 2022

Meeting Number 22.376

22.376.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davis (SD), Stafford Allen (RSA), Mullane (NM) and Whitfield (RW) were all present. Councillor Donne sent his apologies which were accepted.

Councillor David Hughes (DH) also attended the meeting from 8.00pm. There was one member of the public present.

22.376.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest presented in relation to this meeting.

22.376.3 Resolution To Approve: that the Parish Council agrees to hire Fiona Bradshaw of Sylva Consultancy for a fee of up to £600+VAT in order to prepare a detailed record of the developer's construction of the Oak Tree path plus professional comments on what supervision would have been expected and a review of the Arboricultural Method Statement submitted prior to the construction.

DB introduced the reason for the meeting – to provide evidence regarding the oak tree path as part of a dossier of documents ready to submit to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)/Cherwell District Council (CDC) to progress a settlement on the path issue when required.

A decision is required on funding a consultant to gather further evidence. Quotation for the work is in the order of £600+VAT.

The resolution to approve that the Parish Council agrees to hire Fiona Bradshaw of Sylva Consultancy for a fee of up to £600+VAT in order to prepare a detailed record of the developer's construction of the Oak Tree path plus professional comments on what supervision would have been expected and a review of the Arboricultural Method Statement submitted prior to the construction was proposed by DB and seconded by NM. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: DB to confirm the approval of the hire of Sylva Consultancy to carry out a report on the Oak Tree footpath construction with Fiona Bradshaw of Sylva Consultancy.

DB summarised the discussion with Hayden Homes Administrator on 24th January 2022, with Roger Evans, DB and SD in attendance. The Administrator said he would undertake a site visit, meet the foreman on the Southfield site and reconvene a meeting in two weeks. Meanwhile, the Parish Council will provide the approval document for the alternative path and documents relating to ownership of the land on which the existing path has been built.

DB discussed the proposed oak tree branch cutting and measures to prevent this happening. Councillor Simpson had indicated he was getting no responses from OCC and DB had scheduled a call with him on 25th January 2022 for an update.

The member of the public suggested approaching the press with the case.

RW asked if the OCC arboriculturalist, who said he had been approached for his advice on the oak tree, could provide a statement of the advice given, which may be quicker than waiting for a FOI.

DH indicated that he had asked for the oak tree branch cutting application to go to committee, where the Parish Council should seek time to speak.

DB asked DH why CDC Enforcement had not acted. He replied that Enforcement is a last resort, but it should be followed up with Jane Law and indicated another email should be sent to her and cc DH in.

DH asked if a change of the railings would make the existing path acceptable, but all in attendance were strongly against as the damage to the tree would still remain as well as the unacceptable design of the path elevations.

22.376.4 **Next Parish Council Meeting Date:** 2nd February 2022, 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 20.15

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| Minutes Approved:.....Dated..... |
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