

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr David Hawes

Clerk: Ms Allison Spyer

5 Bronze Close, Beggarwood, Basingstoke RG22 4UF

Tel: 07786 063579 Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETING

20th February 2019, Jubilee Hall, 7pm

1. **Councillors Present:** Abbie George, Jane Costigan, Veronica Parker and David Hawes.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Mellish & Allison Spyer
3. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting 11th January 19.** Approved
5. **Meeting Open to the Public:** No members of the public were present.
6. **Planning Applications** – To consider the Parish Council’s response to the following planning applications:

31048/019, St Marys Primary School, Church Street, Bentworth, Alton, GU34 5RE.

Re: Proposal: T1 - Yew - Crown lift to 2.5m (over play ground), 5m (over road), prune branches from play equipment with a clearance of 2m and prune branches away from cables running through the crown and sever ivy.

T2 - Yew – Fell

T3 - Elder – Fell

This matter was covered at some length. It was felt in the case of T1 that insufficient consideration had been given when sizing the new adventure playground. Therefore having to gain permission in a retrospective manner due to the close proximity of the tree to the equipment was not the correct procedure.

T2 in the planning application had no expert supportive documentation other than it was declining and therefore should be felled. The council instructed a tree surgeon to carry out an examination of all three trees. His report is attached in full as appendix 1. However included here is an extract of his report regarding T2.

"T 2 - This yew is definitely stressed. The reasons for the stress is harder to identify, however it is very likely that the roots were significantly damaged when the new playground was constructed. This combined with the dry summer of 2018 would certainly result in major stress. In an ideal situation, if any plant (particularly trees) suffers root damage, then an 'equal' amount of crown should be removed immediately to maintain a healthy balance. I think it would be a great shame to fell this tree and believe it could thrive once again if given a 30 to 50% crown reduction".

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr David Hawes

Clerk: Ms Allison Spyer

5 Bronze Close, Beggarwood, Basingstoke RG22 4UF

Tel: 07786 063579 Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

The attached report on all three trees was produced by Mr Dom Brooking a qualified Tree Surgeon residing in Bentworth.

The unanimous decision was to OBJECT to the planning application. It was also felt before any other application are relieved the the EHDC Chief Tree Officer should visit the site.

24779/008, Ash Meadow Barn, Ashley Road, Bentworth, Alton, GU34 5RH.

Re: Proposal: Prior notification - Agricultural barn for storage

Unanimous Approval. No Objection.

Signed Date.....

Please scroll down for the tree surgeons report

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr David Hawes

Clerk: Ms Allison Spyer

5 Bronze Close, Beggarwood, Basingstoke RG22 4UF

Tel: 07786 063579 Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

Appendix 1. Report from Tree Surgeon

T 1 - The request to lift the crown to 2.5 metres and remove ivy is sensible. I think a 10% crown reduction would also be sensible given the condition of T2 and the reasons I feel it is looking ill.

T 2 - This yew is definitely stressed. The reasons for the stress is harder to identify, however it is very likely that the roots were significantly damaged when the new playground was constructed. This combined with the dry summer of 2018 would certainly result in major stress. In an ideal situation, if any plant (particularly trees) suffers root damage, then an 'equal' amount of crown should be removed immediately to maintain a healthy balance. I think it would be a great shame to fell this tree and believe it could thrive once again if given a 30 to 50% crown reduction.

T 3 - The request is to fell this Common Elder. There is no doubt that Elders are often considered as weeds so I'm sure the tree officer from the council will have no objections. If the local opinion was to object, then I would advise cutting ivy at base and halving the crown to tidy it up.

EHDC, in many applications in the past, are always very keen not to upset the 'urban landscape' if it can possibly be avoided. I would be very surprised and disappointed if they allowed T 2 to be felled. Yew trees are very resilient and are happy to regenerate from a completely stripped trunk. I have achieved this many times in the past and with this in mind, I am sure T2 can be saved and live a healthy and safe life for many years.

To qualify the above, I trained as a tree surgeon many years ago and continue to be professionally active in most aspects of tree husbandry.

Kind regards

Dom Brooking.

Bentworth.