



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6pm in Trinity Methodist Church.

Present: Councillors S Hampson (Chair), G Olson, J Allison, M Duffield, R Oliver, M Chamberlain and D McDonald.

In Attendance: The Clerk and six members of the public.

280. Apologies for Absence: Cllr M Griffiths and Wey.

281. a) Declaration of Interests: None
b) Dispensation Requests: None.

282. Presentation regarding trees owned by the Parish Council. A presentation was made by Cllr Hampson about the recent tree reports on the trees owned by the Parish Council. The trees are inspected yearly, but the inspection in November 2024 had highlighted concerns with two trees and some larger works required on a third. Cllr Hampson showed the tomography results that had been provided by the specialist tree inspector, and explained the recommendations made for works.

283. Public Question Time. Members of the public expressed their thanks that the Parish Council had taken the time to have in depth reports prepared prior to making any decisions. There was also acknowledgement of the expertise of the specialist employed to do these reports and that the recommendations were sound and backed up with scientific proof of their need.

284. Trees. Each trees works were discussed and decided separately. The recommendations of the Recreation Ground Committee were taken into consideration.

Tree 171 Oak Tree by the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

There was extensive rot in then lower part of the tree, which is now essentially hollow and being held up by the bark and buttress roots. A large crack has now developed on the south side and a further one has started on the north side. Investigation Recommendations: The tree has failed and needs to be felled within 3 months.

Tree 180 Oak Tree on left side of Recreation Ground by fitness equipment.

Fungal growths have eaten aways a considerable amount of the inside of the tree. Due to the proximity of the play equipment there were two recommendations for the Council to consider.

Investigation Recommendations: EITHER

A: Reduce the height by 10m and the sides by 3m, AND move the fitness equipment, and do not install planned new play area for under 5's nearby.

OR

B: Monolith the tree at 10m tall and make it a habitat for wildlife. Fitness and new equipment can remain in the area.

Tree 177 Oak tree on left of Recreation Ground by swings

This tree has grown with a divided trunk, and is now showing the beginnings of rot between the trunks.

Investigation Recommendations: To reduce the crown by 3-4m and fit an 8 tonne cobra brace to support the trunks.

Work to be carried out within 6 months.

Council resolved for the following works:

Tree 171 To be felled as soon as can be arranged, within 3 months.

This was for health and safety reasons due to the proximity of the tree to the road, school and entrance to the Recreation Ground.

Tree 180 To be made into a Monolith for wildlife habitat. This was again for health and safety reasons, as the Recreation Ground would still be used even if the play equipment was moved.

Tree 177 To be crown reduced by 3-4m and an 8 tonne cobra brace fitted.

Tree 171 works to be carried out as soon as possible. Trees 180 and 177 would have to wait until the ground was a little drier, so to aim for early April. Clerk to get quotes as soon as possible and a further extra meeting be called if needed.

Councillors expressed regret that such actions had to be taken, but felt that no other option could safely be considered.

Councillors requested that the clerk looked for possibilities for a use for some of the felled wood, if it was suitable, for benches or other items in the Parish.

285. Date of scheduled next meeting.

Full Council Meeting 28th January 2025 in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

Planning meetings will be booked when required.

The meeting closed 7.10pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Brede Parish Council