



BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the Parish Council held at St Barnabas Parish Centre on Tuesday 20th June 2023 from 7:30pm to 7:44pm.

Present:

Cllr C. Clayson, Cllr C. Goatham, Cllr D. Clayson

Also present:

Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

042. Apologies

None

043. Declaration of Interests

None

044. Minutes

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 (minutes 622-626) had not been circulated to all Members and the item was moved to the next meeting.

045. Current Planning Matters

A. 23/502611/TCA - Conservation Area Notification: To fell one ash tree 112 The Street

Cllr Goatham provided those present with a report on the application. The Planning Committee considered the application and recorded an objection with the following comments:

- There is no tree survey/report to support the application, an impartial tree survey is requested to validate the request to fell the tree.
- The application notes that there is Ash dieback, however this in itself does not validate a request to fell the tree. Research provides alternatives to felling (being pruning or coppicing) which could prolong the tree's health. If Ash dieback is confirmed as present the tree will not continue to grow vigorously, thus reducing any further effect on the patio
- The reason given for felling the tree with regard to displacing the fence, provides evidence that the tree is growing on the boundary line. If the base of a tree sits on the boundary line between two properties, it is considered to be jointly owned by both properties (classed as tenants in common). If one owner fells the whole tree without permission from the other owner, that would make them liable (as this amounts to trespass). Consent should also be sought from the other owner before work is undertaken on the tree. Where there is any doubt as to on whose land the tree lies, a surveyor will be able to assess. The Parish Council requests that legal ownership and consents are addressed if Swale Borough Council is mindful to grant permission for the application.
- The tree is highly visible along "The Street", being an area central to the village. To fell the tree would be detrimental to the visual amenity of the area, particularly noting that it is a conservation area. There is no report on the application from the Conservation Officer and the Parish Council makes a request for such a report.

Chairman's Initial.....

- There is no report from the Tree Officer as supporting documentation for the application. The Parish Council requests that the Tree Officer inspects the tree and makes a report.
- If the application is successful, the time of year to fell the tree needs to ensure that it does not take place during the nesting season. Felling the tree in the growing season, rather than in the dormant season, risks spreading the fungus responsible for Ash Dieback. Felling a large diseased ash may have a legal requirement for a felling licence from the Forestry Commission and the application makes no note of this.

Signed by the CHAIRMAN of the meeting