

Fovant Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 06.03.2025 at 19:00hrs.

Venue: The Waterside, Fovant Youth Club, High Street, Fovant, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Present: Cllr. Phillips (Chair), Cllr. Horne, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Cousley, Cllr. J. Ellis, Cllr. Coxe

Attendees : Julie Wallis (clerk) and two members of the public

13.25:Apologies

Cllr. Page, Cllr. Hobbs.

14.25: Noting of absence

None

15.25: Declarations of Interest

None declared.

16:25: Chairmans Introduction

Chair set out that there are two applications and that the trees with preservation orders will be viewed separately and that the Parish council were holding this extraordinary meeting to make a recommendation on the applications as set out.

The chair asked the members of the public present for their views. One member stated he was concerned around the reason for the tree removal as they did not appear diseased and so there was no justifiable reason for removal of so many trees, also there appeared to be some rare trees in the area which were of significant benefit to the ecology and wildlife in the area and so these should have preservation orders them.

The other member of the public agreed and objected to the lombarding of the poplars.

There was further discussion on the ecology and wildlife habitat of the site and there is an active bat colony which could be affected as well as the impact to the stream with so many of the trees being removed along the stream edge.

17:25 Planning Matters:

a) PL/2025/01640 – Old Fovant House, High Street, Fovant, SP4 5JL

Notification of proposed to trees in a conservation area.

Following the comments from the members of public present there was further debate around the potential justification for the removal of a number of healthy trees lining the stream in the

High Street, some of which are rare species and the potential impact on the conservation area. There was some discussion about the wildlife that has been seen in that locality and the effect the clearing work already undertaken with out consent may have had on the wildlife already. Councillors voiced concern as to the potential end goal of the resident in the removal and clearing of the site and its impact on the street scene for passing individuals and questioned why the trees were not being managed instead of felled.

Councillors asked for the environment agency to be involved to assess the potential long-term impact on the stream, and the conservation officer for an opinion on the impact on the conservation area and its ecology.

Outcome: For the clerk to submit a formal objection to the application, with the following comments.

1. That stretch of the High St is heavily used by pedestrians walking to and from the shop and surgery. The view into this plot of land and its trees make an important contribution to the visual amenity of the Conservation Area. The Conservation Officer should be consulted.
2. The Environment Agency should be asked to assess the risks to the integrity of the Brook before planning consent is given to remove trees lining the Brook. The EA's 8m planning rule should apply. The Brook is an important Chalk River, and the Parish Council has published an awareness-raising booklet about its care – the third edition was posted to every Riparian owner in Nov 2023. Removing trees along the banks could weaken the banks and disturb the ecology of this intermediate zone. The water table is high, and there must be no risk of flooding of the many properties close downstream.
3. The Wessex River Trust should separately be consulted about the risks to the Brook if those trees are removed.
4. Because the trees lining each side of the Brook are important as a group, they should immediately be subject to a blanket TPO. If in future the landowner applies to replace individuals in the Group, it should be a Condition that the methodology to protect the Brook while doing so has prior approval from the Environment Agency.
5. There has already been irreparable ecological damage caused by unauthorized work already undertaken prior to this application. National Landscape should be consulted over the risk of adverse impact on the ecology of the site from recent clearance and proposed works. There is local bat activity which we are concerned could be affected by further works.
6. The large ash tree T3 near the road is in good enough condition to warrant an immediate TPO.
7. The Black Poplar tree T12 is a significant resource for ecology and should have an immediate TPO.
8. The proposed 30% reduction of the three Lombardy Poplars G1 should be re-considered as this is likely to allow rot to enter and lead to unnecessary dangers.
9. Any consent should await the receipt of a replanting plan as promised in the Application.

b) PL/2025/01644 - Old Fovant House, High Street, Fovant, SP4 5JL

Consent under tree preservation order – T13 Beech crown raise

Outcome : Clerk to submit a formal no objection submission to the application

Meeting closed at 20:45

DRAFT