

**2023/1
MINUTES**

PRESENT:	Simon Willies	Chair
	Bernie Chapman	Vice Chair
	Graham Allison	Councillor
	Ian Monson	Councillor

Open Forum (questions regarding the Agenda)

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Declarations of recording and social media use

4. To select a contractor from the 5 quotes received to fell the Beech Tree:

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Prepared by the clerk Susan Hernandez

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Cllr Allison pointed out that The Norfolk Arborist would use a crane to take down the tree, but Cllr Willies related how Dr. Stump had described the use of lines and pulleys to carefully reduce the branches from the sides first and then from the crown downwards. Cllr Monson expressed his concern at the prospect of the road being closed for 3-4 days which would make it difficult if not disastrous for farming work. Cllr Allison thought it would be unlikely for the diversion signs to be removed each night and then replaced each morning, but Cllr Chapman disagreed saying that this could be exactly what could be done. He went on to say that he agreed with David Hotchkin's summary. Cllr Monson agreed that Target Trees should be eliminated as they are too expensive and had refused to supply RAMS as requested. He asked Mr. Hotchkin for reassurance that his offer to pay for the tree felling would stand and Mr. Hotchkin reassured the council of this. Cllr Monson added that he remained committed to paying £750 towards the cost of the traffic management and Cllr Allison asked him if he would reclaim the VAT -to which he said yes. Dr. Stump's total quote amounted to £9600 (which includes the VAT) and the Chair advised that the VAT component would be reclaimable and refunded to the benefactors as and when they asked for it. Cllr Allison said that he would support the choice of David Hotchkin as he was paying for the job and Cllr Chapman considered Dr. Stump to be the most experienced operator, likely to carry out the felling in the correct manner. The Chair asked for a proposal and Cllr Chapman proposed that the PC engage Dr. Stump for the job, this was seconded by Cllr Willies - a show of hands was unanimous. Cllr Chapman asked the Clerk to contact Dr. Stump immediately (she confirmed that this would be done on her return home after the meeting). Regarding the replacement tree, Cllr Monson suggested this should be left until the Autumn. Finally, Mr. Hotchkin added that the beech tree felling should be completed in one go, rather than reduced to a certain height (for any reason) and risk the chance of it falling down (from rot) or further expense to engage another tree surgeon. Cllrs agreed that the tree should be taken down to the ground.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm