

14 JULY 2000

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Tree Preservation Order Sub-Committee held on Friday 14 July 2000 at New Milton Recreation Centre, Gore Road, New Milton.

Councillors:

Miss P A Drake
L T Dunsdon
p J D Heron
p J M Hoy

Councillors:

e Mrs B M Maynard
p B Rickman
e Mrs B Smith
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

Miss J Debnam, N Gruber and Mrs N Heaselden.

Also in Attendance:

Mr J Townsend, Mrs H McCracken, Mrs A Young – neighbours.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Wyeth be elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Rickman be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

3. MINUTES (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2000, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 6/00 (REPORT B).

The meeting was preceded by a site visit to inspect the woodland covered by TPO 6/00, on land off Grange Close, Everton, Hordle. The Council's Arboriculturist drew members attention to the variety of species and age and condition of the groups of the trees present in the woodland at land off Grange Close, Hordle. There were oak, sycamore, yew, holly, elm and elder present. In addition there was a wide range of age groups of tree, including some significant oak trees.

The objector was not present to address the members. The Council's Arboriculturist suggested that a woodland order was the most appropriate form of protection to be afforded to these trees. In a woodland order the natural regeneration was protected. In a group order this was not the case, and in any event it would be administratively difficult to specify each individual tree to be protected because of the number and variety that were present.

In answer to a question, the Council's Arboriculturist confirmed that there was no definition of a woodland relating, for example, to size, which established the criteria under which a Woodland Tree Preservation Order should be made.

The supporters of the Order who were present drew members' attention to the amenity value of the woodland. It provided an important visual screen and break between the housing development of Grange Close and the adjoining road. It provided an acoustic screen from traffic noises for the benefit of local residents. There were few areas of woodland in the locality and this increased the value of the trees which remained. The woodland was an important and valued area in which local children played. The supporters also drew attention to the number of bird and bat species which were present within the woodland.

Mr Townsend, a supporter, drew members' attention to three letters in support of the Order which had been given to him by three other neighbours. In addition, the Chairman read out another letter from a neighbour reporting the value of the woodland as a safe play area for local children and also as a wildlife refuge.

In summing up, the Council's Arboriculturist advised members that in his opinion the premature removal of these trees, and the lack of a requirement to replant, would be detrimental to the appearance of the area.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed. The Sub-Committee considered the evidence which had been submitted to them and

RESOLVED:

That Tree Preservation Order No. 6/00 be confirmed without amendment.

CHAIRMAN