



**13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting**  
**7.30 pm Village Hall**

**Present**

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Toby Davis, Gary Kinsley, Chester Lusk, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter.  
In attendance: Clerk Mary Philo.  
Members of the Public: 11

**1. Formalities**

**I) Quorum**

The council was quorate.

**II) Apologies**

None

(LGA 1972 schedule 12, 12)

**III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None.

(Code of Conduct)

**22/00133/TC 4 Maple Court - T1 Oak Tree.**

Councillor Wilkinson updated the public with the actions he had taken prior to the last ordinary council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June as most members of the public in attendance had not stayed after the public session to hear it. For details refer to the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 minutes. In addition, it has since been clarified that there was not a tree protection order on the oak tree concerned and the tree officer had advised that it is better for residents to formally object individually rather than en masse. Furthermore, Councillor Wilkinson had chased the archeological officer again and he had spoken to the planning officer to have the address corrected.

**Adjournment of Meeting for Public Questions**

**Public Questions 7.39pm**

**Tree Application 22/00133/TC Removal of Oak tree 4 Maple Place**

A number of residents spoke and made the following comments:

- Advice that the website was not showing comments recently submitted, nor was a confirmation of receipt of comment email being received
- A request that the council object and as a belt and braces approach request an emergency tree protection order
- A protection order also provides sanctions such as fines
- The tree was not unsafe nor a risk to the property. Shading was the only issue
- Concern was expressed about the oak tree on the proposed plot 6 planning application (21/02040/AS)
- Concern was expressed about all the trees on the site

- Concern was expressed that the tree application might be decided before the emergency protection order request seen however, the clerk would include the tree officer in the email request. It was also advised that tree officer sees all the emails to the department.
- It was suggested that the applicant should obtain approval from the landowner before submitting an application.

## **The meeting reconvened at 7.59 pm**

### **2. Planning**

(Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 schedule 1/2010)

#### **2.1 Planning Applications Considered**

22/00133/TC 4 Maple Court - T1 Oak Tree. Removal due to excessive shading to rear garden and house. Tree in close proximity to property. Replant with two new native saplings (Oak & Ash).

Following comments from the public and concern regarding the possible dilution of the emergency protection order request, **it was resolved to object to the application and to request an emergency Tree Protection Order to be placed on the group of trees including the oak tree, both based on the following reasons** (proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Davis):

The tree is an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) of nearly 35 feet and substantial trunk girth with good shape. It is the largest and most mature of the small spread-out group of trees there. It has recently been surveyed as being healthy and in very good condition.

It forms part of a group of trees that provide some screening between 4 Maple Court and Court Lodge Hall

Its removal will make a significant difference to the feeling and appearance of Maple Court itself. The cluster of trees along with the ancient mound softens the new builds and helps to break up the houses into two parts.

The tree and the group behind are prominent in the landscape from further away. It is visible from the public car park and helps to maintain the countryside feel of the area which is a conservation area.

An oak tree of this size is excellent habitat. Its loss will take decades to replace while sapling trees grow. With building complete on the site, owls will return to the trees at Maple Court.

The houses have just been built and so the occupiers must have been aware of the tree in relation to the property before buying.

In order to prevent any further reduction in trees on the site we request that the group of trees including this oak is protected under a tree protection order. We feel that there is some urgency as the trees are on land belonging to the developer who has prior history of removing trees and reducing oak trees without permission on this development site and the surrounding land which they also own.

Within the emergency order request, concern regarding the oak on plot 6 would be mentioned and that a later protection order request may be made.

### **3. Membership of Kent Association of Local Councils**

**It was resolved to agree to renew membership of Kent Association of Local Councils. £386.88 (vat £ 64.48).** Proposed Councillor Lusk and seconded by Councillor Davis

### **4. Information for councillors**

Replacement defibrillator pads had been installed.

### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 4th July 2022, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall