

## **Beech Trees Timeline December 2015 – November 2018**

- December 2015 – Two large branches break off from one of the beech trees by the tennis court. Fortunately, the only damage to property was to a privately owned post and rail fence next to the trees. The cost for emergency work to clear the fallen branches and make the tree safe is £925.00.
- Early 2016 – The Parish Council agree the trees need to be looked at and speak to Guy Watson (Certhia Consulting Ltd). He agrees to speak to David Wyatt, arboriculture officer at Wiltshire Council, to discuss the issue.
- March 2016 – David Wyatt agrees that work is required to the trees, but that there is no urgency for the work to be carried out. The following resolution was made at the March meeting. It was RESOLVED six in favour and four abstentions to take a long term approach on these trees, and see if Wiltshire Council will allow some to be felled
- July 2016 – The Parish Council consider the report from Guy Watson (Certhia Consulting Ltd) which suggests three options for dealing with the trees.  
Option 1 – Retain and maintain the trees via a process of inspection and tree surgery over their remaining life span, though it was noted that Beech trees are generally not tolerant of significant pruning and some have limited potential to regrow from cut points.  
Option 2 – Total removal and replanting. A one-off operation to remove all the trees and replant with more appropriate species.  
Option 3 – Phased removal and replanting, which would spread the works described in option 2 over a 5-10 year period.  
There are plus and minus points on all 3 options, but the Council agree to look further at option 2 first. Guy Watson agrees to liaise with David Wyatt about total removal and replanting of all trees.
- October 2016 – Following discussions with David Wyatt at Wiltshire Council, Guy Watson has recommend that the Parish Council pursue Option 2, the total removal and replanting of the trees. His recommendation is to replace the trees with ones of about 10-12cm in girth, though David Wyatt wants them to be twice that size. The Council start to look at indicative cost for carrying out this work, and liaise further with David Wyatt.
- November 2016 – Letters are hand delivered to all properties in the location of the trees, advising them that the Parish Council intends to cut them down and replace them. 2 objections (1 written & 1 verbal), and 1 offer of help with the new planting scheme are received.
- December 2016 – Works to trees with TPO application submitted to Wiltshire Council.
- January 2017 – Tenders are sent out to contractors asking for prices for felling and replanting the trees. A decision is made to approach SSE about burying the electrical cable. The planting scheme could be improved if the cable is not in the way of new growth.
- February 2017 – Talks still on going with SSE re burying the cable. 2 contractors are being considered for the work. The following resolution was made at the February meeting: It was RESOLVED unanimously to update the two contractors being considered that there is a delay on a decision whilst the Council waits on SSE and WC. And that the remaining contractors will be advised they were unsuccessful.  
9 February – The application to fell and replant the trees is approved. 16/12346/TPO. The work must be carried out within 2 years, and the planting must be Beech and Field Maple as per the schedule of planting submitted with the application.
- March 2017 – SSE advise it will cost the Parish Council £8,765.65 to bury the electricity cable. Cllr. Brown is asked to work with SSE to either get a reduced price, or work carried out for free.

The following resolution is made at the March meeting:

It was RESOLVED unanimously to confirm with Conservation Contactors that their bid of £3,780 to remove the trees, £1,660 to replant & £180 per annum for 5 years tree care package would be accepted. The work is to be carried out in the autumn, subject to getting the electricity line removed, and a possible change of tree types to be planted. Costs for any changes to the trees would be agreed at a later point if required. The Council acknowledges that the total cost of the new the trees and the amount for the 5 year care package may increase due to price changes for the tree purchase & planting in the autumn rather than now. They are willing to accept a small increase in this amount (if the trees being ordered remained the same)

- September 2017 – Cllr. Brown advises he has been chasing SSE for the last 6 months, and is continuing to do so.
- October 2017 – Cllr Brown reports that SSE have indicated that it may be possible to bury the cables FoC. SSE are given another month before the Parish Council decide how they will proceed.
- November 2017 – SSE confirm that the request for the cables to be buried for free has been sent to their investment and engineering department. There is no ETA on how long it will take to get a response.  
The Council agree to bid for some of the WWI commemoration trees being organised by WC. If they are successful this will reduce the costs to the parish for this project. SSE are advised of the timeline for this project (planting in time for November 11 2018) in the hope it may speed up a response from them.
- December 2017 – The bid for trees for some of the WWI commemorative trees has been successful. Those on the original planting schedule have been ordered.
- March 2018 – No word from SSE, despite being chased. Cllr. Williams offers to see if a contact at SSE he has could be of any help with getting things moving. The tree planting season has now been missed, which means it will be October 2018 before the trees can be felled.
- April 2018 – Still nothing from SSE. WC advised that some of the trees ordered as part of WWI commemorations are not available to be ordered. It was agreed to order just 10 and to now plant them elsewhere in the village. (Subsequently in Sept 2018 the Council had to withdraw from the project as there were only limited species of trees available and these were not the ones that were desired)
- May 2018 – The name of the person at SSE dealing with the request to bury the cable is now known. It was agreed to write to them asking for a decision either way.
- July 2018 – Cllr. Brown reported that he had spoken to Andy Hook at SSE and he had confirmed that Matthew Anderson had been passed the information on burying the cable, but as yet there was still no news on this. The following resolution is made at the July meeting:  
It was RESOLVED seven in favour and two against to continue with felling and replanting the trees, as agreed in March 2017, and to carry out the felling this autumn. Any change in costs for carrying out the felling to be considered and approved using delegated powers.
- September 2018 – A new price for the felling is awaited from the contractor, but it is anticipated to be 10-15% higher than originally quoted. This would still make it the cheapest quote received.
- **Currently October/November 2018** – Still no update from SSE re burying the cable. Awaiting new start date and final costs from contractor.

Further updates will be shown in the Parish Council meeting minutes. Which are posted on the noticeboard, are available in the library and are also posted on the Parish Council website.