

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting SPECIAL MEETING of the Marldon Parish Council held on Thursday 18th February 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs: Pennington, Benney, Palk, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Cox, Joinson, Thorp.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk to the Council: David Eeles; Simon Putt, SHDC Tree Officer, and 5 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Webber, Veasey, Danby

2 TREE and HEDGE WORK at MOORVIEW, MARLDON

The Chairman introduced Simon Putt of SHDC's Tree Office, who had kindly passed on a message from Aspect Tree Consultancy notifying the District Council that they would carry out work (subcontracted to Dartmoor Tree Surgeons) to the hedge at Moorview, owned by their clients Midas Homes, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday next week, in order to avoid the impending bird nesting season. This work would not involve the trees which were subject to TPO's and for which a separate application has been made to raise the crowns of trees which were overhanging the road. This work will involve the hedge laying of hazel and removal of the structurally weak sycamore. It would apparently also involve an ash tree that was also not covered by a TPO.

The Chairman outlined the background to this which was that the Council had been concerned about safety of cars and pedestrians in Moorview due to the overhanging branches on trees on Midas property; they had notified DCC highways who had obviously passed on their concerns to Midas, who were now taking action.

Members were concerned that the sycamore was going to be cut down to a stump and were not convinced that the tree was diseased or dangerous. Simon Putt said he would look at this tree as soon as possible to establish if it was healthy, if it was it could become the subject of a TPO. The Chairman proposed that this course of action should be pursued, and that a second opinion on the tree should be sought by asking Devon Tree Services to inspect the trees. He also asked Simon Putt to ask for the work to be delayed until this could happen, although the latter could give no assurances about this as regards the trees were not

protected by TPO's. This motion was seconded by Cllr Cox and AGREED none against. Members and the public were concerned that more work might be carried out that was specified, and the Chairman recalled previous planning applications by Midas to develop this site which had involved creating a road through the Devon bank to what would be a new estate and closing the top of Moorview.

Cllr Cox detailed the other work that was the subject of a TPO application and concern was expressed about work to a field maple and ash tree that were protected by the TPO orders. Members discussed the proposed work to the hedge and although some had reservations the general feeling was that this work was justified and would probably improve the condition of the hedge in the long term.

The meeting closed at 8.45 and the Chairman thanked the audience and Simon Putt for their attendance