

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS COMMITTEE

Monday, 14th April, 2008, at 2.00 p.m. in
Committee Room 3, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillor James (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Aston, D Blood, Cotterill, K Finch, Ms Nicholls and Mrs Rogers.

Officers

Mr J Dunn, Mr C Mellor and Mrs H Brookes-Martin (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Ms S Ahmed and Mr R Jewkes (Directorate of Law and Property)

46 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Simms.

47 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

48 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th March, 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed.

49 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the following planning applications. The persons referred to, having indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting, were in attendance and spoke on the planning application indicated: -

P08/0274 – Mr A Verlander, representing the applicant.

RESOLVED

That the applications be dealt with as follows: -

- (i) Plan no. P08/0274 – 75 Highwood Close, Kingswinford – Fell 1 Wellingtonia Spruce Tree.

Decision: Approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 “Recommendations for Treework”.
2. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.

- (ii) Plan no. P08/0271 – 6 Parish Gardens, Pedmore, Stourbridge – Fell 1 Blue Cedar Tree.

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive) as set out in the report of the Director of the Urban Environment.

- (iii) Plan no. P08/0276 – Dreycote, Quarry Park Road, Stourbridge – Various tree work.

Decision: That consideration of the application be deferred pending a site visit to be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee to address concerns raised by Members.

- (iv) Plan no. P08/0346 – 5 Milcote Way, Kingswinford – Fell 1 Mountain Ash Tree.

Decision: Approved, subject to conditions numbered 1 to 3 (inclusive) as set out in the report of the Director of the Urban Environment.

PROSECUTION RESULTING FROM BREACH OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER LEGISLATION

Mr Mellor reported verbally on a recent prosecution successfully pursued by the Council in relation to a breach, by a member of the public, of Tree Preservation Orders legislation.

He reported that, following the refusal by the Committee, in 2006, of an application to fell a tree, which was protected by a Tree Preservation Order, and the subsequent dismissal by the Planning Inspectorate of an appeal against the refusal, it had come to Mr Dunn’s attention earlier in 2008 that the tree had been felled without the required planning permission.

In view of this, the Council had successfully pursued the prosecution of the person responsible for the felling of the tree, who had been fined £1000, plus court costs, by the local Magistrates Court.

Members congratulated officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment on the prosecution, and echoed Mr Mellor's comments that the judgement would hopefully deter other unsuccessful applicants from felling trees without the required planning consent.

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current municipal year, the Chairman expressed his thanks to Members of the Committee, and to the officers who had serviced meetings, for their help over the preceding year.

The meeting ended at 3:10 pm

CHAIRMAN