

Woodlands Committee meeting held on Monday 28 July 2025, commencing at 7.34pm, after the Planning Committee meeting when there were present:

Mrs L Barrington-Smith
Mrs C Karimi-Ghovanlou Mrs J Latchford
Mr B Knights

Also present: Clerk and 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence None

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda None

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2025 were confirmed by the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.

Report items

Memorial bench: The bench in memory of former Councillor John Franklin had been installed.

Broken brace on oak tree: A resident had contacted Cllr Barrington-Smith on Saturday 28 June to report his concern about the bracing on an oak tree branch having failed and the possibility of the branch falling into his garden. This was immediately reported to the Clerk who contacted the Council's arborist and requested that he inspect the tree to ensure that the area was safe. The arborist advised that the brace was many years old, it had been installed as a precaution at the time and that no urgent work was needed. It was noted climbing inspection might be necessary when carrying out the annual safety inspection.

Broken branch near Tusser Road: A report was received of a broken branch of an oak tree near to the lower path in Ghosthill Wood. The branch was still attached to the tree but was large enough and high enough to cause serious safety concerns. The paths were closed and the Council's arborist was called to remove the branch.

The current budget picture was received.

To receive the annual risk assessment report and to note the contents

The report conducted by Cllrs Barrington-Smith and Knights was circulated. There were no concerns to note.

To receive the Draper's Wood management plan and to make comment

The management plan stated that the wood had varieties of flora that would usually be found in ancient woodland, there was a large swathe of bluebells but that the wood was lacking in understorey. Councillors were very pleased with the detail of the management plan and stated that they would like to work to meet the objectives identified. The Clerk had made an initial enquiry for a quote for the whips, spirals and canes required for the additional planting, and Cllr Barrington-Smith would also enquire with the Woodland Trust to see if she could source the trees for a lesser cost. The meeting requested that a leaflet calling for volunteers to help look after the wood be delivered to all the homes at the Taursham Park development.

To consider request for an additional memorial bench in Ghosthill Wood

After finding the John Franklin memorial bench in the wood, a resident contacted the Council to offer to pay for an additional memorial bench to be located somewhere along the bottom path in Ghosthill Wood. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk had visited the wood but had not found anywhere suitable to site the bench. Prior to the meeting, Councillors had been provided with a map of the paths of the wood to help

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them identify suitable areas taking into consideration overhanging tree canopies, gradient of land and proximity to neighbouring properties. It was **AGREED** to hold a site meeting on Monday 4 August at 10am to look for suitable locations for the bench.

Tree wardens forum

There were no tree wardens in attendance.

The Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Signed.....

Dated.....