



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023  
at the Pavilion, Fownhope**

Page  
Number:

**Present:**

Cllrs Kevin Braybrook (in the Chair), Tim Jones, Gareth Williams, Mike Simmons, Frank Hemming, Lavinia Smith, Michael Short, Claire Patel, Alison Martin and Tony Kelk.

**In attendance:**

2 members of the public; Ward Councillor Graham Biggs; Clerk Helen Tinson

1) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Will Morris

2) **To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Written Requests for Dispensation:**

To receive any declarations of interest: Cllr Mike Simmons declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8e, FRFA fees; and Cllr Tony Kelk declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5b (Planning 232943). The Declarations of Interest book was signed accordingly.

To consider any written requests for dispensations: there were none, though Cllr Kelk verbally requested a dispensation in connection with his declaration of interest. The Clerk informed him that dispensations are generally granted only if the meeting would not otherwise be quorate.

3) **Open Session:**

a) **Report from Ward Councillor:** The Ward Councillor presented his report which included the following items:

- Cabinet approved the library move to the Shire Hall;
- The capital budget has been withdrawn but will be presented to full council in December;
- An additional £10million is being proposed to address resurfacing and potholes, though this may be focused on main routes;
- BBLP have met all key performance indicators in connection with extending their contract which has been extended for a further two years;
- Every council is facing revenue challenges, including Herefordshire who are facing a £10million overspend, and are currently looking to balance the budget;

b) **Representation from the Public:** There were none.

4) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

5) **To Ratify Comments Submitted under Delegated Powers on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:**

a) 232912: Westholme, Fownhope, HR1 4NN. Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Members were informed that the Planning Working Group recommended that the application be supported. A member of the council noted his preference to trim the conifers rather than cut them.

**It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the response to support the application.

b) 232943: Rockhurst, Fownhope, HR1 4NX. Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Members were informed that the Planning Working Group recommended that the application be supported.

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	<p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to ratify the response to support the application. Cllr Tony Kelk refrained from voting in accordance with his declaration of interest.</p> <p>A member of the council raised a concern about the quantity of trees being lost in the parish.</p> <p>6) <b>To Note Report on Planning Decisions Made by Herefordshire Council:</b> Members noted the report as attached to the minutes as Appendix A.</p> <p>7) <b>To Consider Other Matters related to Planning:</b></p> <p>a) <b>232195: Land adjacent to Fownhope Medical Centre:</b> to receive an update and consider footpath surfacing and provision of streetlighting. Cllr Kevin Braybrook reported that he and Ward Cllr Biggs had met with the Case Officer and presented an update:</p> <p><a href="C:\Users\fownh\OneDrive\Desktop\Land adjacent to Fownhope Medical Centre Common Hill - update 1st Nov 23.pptx">C:\Users\fownh\OneDrive\Desktop\Land adjacent to Fownhope Medical Centre Common Hill - update 1st Nov 23.pptx</a></p> <p>In relation to Slide 8 - District Valuers Report, it was noted that house price inflation may have increased the profit margin on each property which may now make it viable to include affordable homes and accordingly it was suggested that a new affordability report should be commissioned. It was also noted that the report was out of date at the time the outline planning permission was granted. This has been forwarded to the Case Officer who is expected to respond w/c 6<sup>th</sup> November. It was suggested that the Parish Council seek independent legal advice in relation to the outdated report.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> that the Clerk seek legal advice from NALC (National Association of Local Councils)</p> <p>In relation to Slide 9, Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, the Ward Cllr advised that this will be targeted to new developments and will not impact this application.</p> <p>Ward Cllr Biggs reported that he is in communication with MF Freemans and read a letter to the meeting which detailed where plans have been adjusted to address Parish Council and Parishioner objections. Letter as attached to these minutes as Appendix B. Revised draft plans are pending and Ward Cllr Biggs confirmed he will share them once received.</p> <p>Ward Cllr Biggs also confirmed that the development will be connected to the existing main sewerage system at the stipulation of Welsh Water, and that he is still pushing Welsh Water to clarify the capacity of the current system.</p> <p>Members proceeded to consider three options for surfacing the section of Green Lane that forms the accessible footpath from the development to the village – 1) tarmac (as preferred by HC), 2) a hard surface with a high friction grit finish, or 3) hoggin, as FWD5, which HC have advised they will not maintain. The developer has suggested that they may be minded to incorporate the maintenance of a hoggin surface into the resident’s service charge. Members voted on their preferred surface.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to propose that the path surface is hoggin (6 votes) <u>only</u> if it is maintained by MF Freemans or via the service charge, and unless any further options are proposed. There were 3 votes for tarmac and 1 for the high friction grit finish.</p> <p>Members proceeded to consider the provision of streetlighting on the development.</p> <p><b>It was unanimously RESOLVED:</b> not to request the installation of streetlighting.</p> <p>b) <b>To consider a review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and agree action:</b> Members received an update on the status of the Local Plan from the Ward Councillor and considered whether to carry out a minor, intermediate or major review of the Neighbourhood Plan. Ward Cllr Biggs reported that Herefordshire Council are expecting local councils to review their neighbourhood plans around March 2024 in line with the first consultation of the Local Plan.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> that the Planning Working Group assess the NDP with a view to carrying out a minor review and present a report to the February meeting.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> that the Clerk investigate options for funding in case needed.</p>	<p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>PWG HT</b> 299/11 /2324 2 of 5</p>
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<p>c)</p> <p>8)</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> <p>e)</p> <p>9)</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p><b>Herefordshire Local Plan 2021-2041 update: Brownfield Land Assessment Call for Sites 2023:</b> Members noted the update.</p> <p>Ward Cllr Biggs and one member of the public left the meeting.</p> <p><b>Finance and Policy:</b></p> <p><b>Finance Report:</b> Members received a financial report as attached to these minutes as Appendix C. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to approve the report.</p> <p><b>Investment Advisory Group:</b> Members considered granting authority to the Clerk to act between meetings upon the advice of the Investment Advisory Group together with the Finance Working Group to buy and sell shares in the event that a quick decision is required to protect public funds. It was suggested that the Parish Council review the principle of investments now that interest rates have increased. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to grant delegated authority as stated.</p> <p><b>RoSPA Weekly Playground Inspection Reports:</b> Members were informed that RoSPA will not combine a report for the skate ramp with the playground report and therefore considered the purchase of a further weekly inspection report for the skate ramp at a cost of £30 plus VAT. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to approve the purchase of an inspection report for the skate ramp at a cost of £30 plus VAT.</p> <p><b>Annual Membership of Herefordshire Green Network:</b> <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to approve the renewal of annual membership at a cost of £50.</p> <p><b>Payments:</b> <b>It was RESOLVED: to ratify the following payments made between meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen Tinson, Reimbursement of Expenses (Refreshment for Coronation Walk), £188.34</li> <li>• Suzi Bruce, Grass Cutting and Lengthsman, £190.00</li> </ul> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to approve the following invoices for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Maddy Coaches, Bus Service October, £90.00</li> <li>• FRFA, Meeting Room Hire October, £20.00</li> <li>• FNMH, Room Hire Coronation Walk, £48.00</li> <li>• Helen Tinson, Reimbursement Squarespace website hosting, £204.00 plus £40.80 VAT</li> <li>• Helen Tinson, Salary October, £851.90</li> <li>• Fownhope Flag, Centre Page Supplement October, £61.75</li> <li>• Phil Oakley, Biggs Lane, £85.00</li> <li>• HALC, In house Training, £226.48 plus £45.29 VAT</li> <li>• Stuart Eames, Reimbursement of Expenses SID Battery, £114.00 plus £22.80 VAT</li> <li>• Stuart Eames, Reimbursement of Expenses Paint – Parish Maintenance, £40.00</li> <li>• Stuart Eames, Reimbursement of Expenses Rails – Parish Maintenance, £39.92 plus £7.99 VAT</li> </ul> <p><b>Policies and Procedures:</b></p> <p><b>Planning Policy:</b> Members considered a draft planning policy and accompanying informative document (Planning – Points to Consider). It was noted that the draft document had been amended since first presented to clarify the process around considering councillor’s own planning applications <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to approve the Planning Policy and accompanying informative (Points to Consider) document.</p> <p><b>Delegated Authority:</b> Members considered HALC’s advice that any authorities delegated to the Clerk are renewed every four-year term. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to renew the delegated authority for the Clerk as follows:</p>	<p></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p>300/11 /2324 3 of 5</p>
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	<p>1) to respond to planning consultations between meetings, if necessary, in accordance with a decision reached by a quorum of the Planning Working Group;</p> <p>2) to make payments between meetings within budget as required up to £500;</p> <p>3) to make payments to respond to an emergency up to £1000.</p>	<b>HT</b>
10)	<p><b>Village Walk-Round:</b></p> <p>a) Members considered a report detailing matters identified on the village walk-round on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and noted the outcome of a meeting between the Locality Steward, Chairman and Clerk on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> that the Clerk continue to progress action in response to matters identified.</p>	<b>HT</b>
11)	<p><b>Highways:</b></p> <p>a) Members received the following report from the Highways Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual survey of grit bins has been carried out. The Clerk was asked to contact BBLP to determine if there will be an annual top-up this year;</li> <li>• A question was raised concerning grit bins on the new developments. It was agreed that Cllr Braybrook would ask the developer;</li> <li>• The barrier on Biggs Lane is ready to install. The school have advised that the gate adjacent to the barrier is now permanently locked. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the school and with the volunteer installing the barrier to reach a conclusion;</li> <li>• The Lengthsman has carried out general works in the village;</li> <li>• The hedges along Biggs Lane have been trimmed as agreed at the last meeting but also need to be reduced in height by approximately 3ft. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for consideration at the next meeting;</li> <li>• It was noted that Stuart Eames has spent a good deal of time clearing the bridge at Tan Brook and carrying out various other maintenance tasks around the village. Members wished to minute their thanks to him.</li> </ul> <p>b) <b>Traffic Calming Scheme:</b> There has still been no update received from BBLP/HC. The Clerk was asked to contact Herefordshire Council to follow up.</p> <p>c) <b>Roadside Parking outside West End Stores:</b> Members considered concerns raised by a councillor about parking outside the West End Stores and the impact on cars exiting Scotch Firs. The Clerk reported that the Locality Steward had suggested the only option available via HC/BBLP was a Traffic Regulation Order to install double yellow lines opposite Scotch Firs. It was noted that if double yellow lines were to be considered at the shop, that might set a precedent for yellow lines throughout the village.</p> <p>It was understood that the shop is an important asset to the village but that parking on the main road opposite the junction is both a hazard and a breach of the highway code, and it was suggested that a sign outside encouraging use of the car park may help. Whilst no accidents have been reported, it was suggested there have been near misses. It was noted that the traffic calming scheme is understood to include a beige block at the bottom of the junction which may detract drivers from parking on it, thereby keeping the junction clear.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> not to pursue the matter at this time pending completion and further assessment of the traffic calming scheme (8 in favour, 2 against).</p>	<p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p> <p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>HT</b></p>
12)	<p><b>Environment:</b></p> <p>a) As the meeting was running late, the report from the Environment Working Group was deferred. However, it was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at the Green Man, and would focus on the action plan for next year. The meeting is open to all councillors and members of the public.</p>	
13)	<p><b>Footpaths:</b></p> <p>a) There was no report.</p>	
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14)	<p><b>FRFA:</b> a) The FRFA report was deferred.</p>	<b>MS</b>
b)	<p><b>Patio Extension:</b> Members received a brief report on the plans to extend the patio area but deferred further discussion to the next meeting.</p>	<b>MS</b>
15)	<p><b>Working Groups:</b> a) New members were briefly asked to consider which working groups they may like to join and to inform the Clerk before the next meeting. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	<b>HT</b>
16)	<p><b>Parish Matters:</b> a) <b>Warm Spaces:</b> Members were asked to consider whether to offer the provision of a warm space at Faulkner House again this year. It was noted that the Fownhope Library will continue to offer a warm meeting space and refreshments on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm, and St. Mary’s Church will continue their coffee mornings on Friday mornings from 10am - 12noon. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider extending a warm space provision if a demand is observed at both of the existing events. Members agreed that the initiative should be renamed to remove any negative connotations.</p>	
17)	<p><b>Clerk Report:</b> Members noted the report as attached to these minutes as Appendix D.</p>	
18)	<p><b>Next Meetings:</b> Parish Council Meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023. HALC AGM: It was noted that the date may have changed and would be confirmed</p>	
19)	<p><b>Agenda Items Raised for Next Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider and approve the updated Risk Register</li> <li>• To receive and consider update on Playground S106</li> <li>• To receive and consider update on voluntary registration of Tan Brook Land Ownership</li> <li>• To consider plans for the Pavilion patio improvements</li> </ul>	
Meeting closed.		
Signed .....		
Dated .....		
<b>Chairman</b>		
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## Appendix A: Planning Decisions Report

Planning Number	Address	Application	FPC Response	HC Decision
232836	Tan Brook	T1: Sycamore - Dismantle the overall crown and stem to leave as near ground level as possible. T2: Hornbeam - reduce the two large limbs over the road by approx 3m in length, retaining 5 of the branches over the road and sever the ivy at the base of the tree. T3: Ash - remove one low limb. T4: Turkey Oak - remove deadwood and crown lift to 6m above carriageway.	Support	Works can Proceed
213676	Haughwood Cottage Mordiford HR1 4LT	Proposed discharge of a Section 106 agreement applied to planning permission SH940237PM	Object (Oct 2021)	Withdrawn
232608/XA2	Land at Tump Farm South Fownhope HR1 4PJ	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 4 & 6 attached to planning permission 221961	Comments not being accepted	Approved
232774	Beechcroft Fownhope HR1 4PA	Tree 1: 1 Large Hornbeam to be reduced roughly by 35 - 40%. This is to allow other plants and trees to grow, as the hornbeam is currently encroaching within the space it is positioned. Tree 2: 1 Small Hornbeam to reduce by roughly 1/3. This is to keep the tree away from the neighbour's side and to keep it more compact. Tree 3: 1 Medium sized Purple leaved Maple to be reduced by roughly 30%. Again, this is to keep the tree under control. Tree 4: 1 Medium sized Willow tree to be reduced by roughly 30% and slightly thinned.	Support	Works can Proceed
232579/XA2	43 & 44 Court Orchard Fownhope HR1 4NY	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 attached to planning permission 221903	Comments not being accepted	Approved
232778/XA2	2 Fownhope Court Court Gardens Fownhope HR1 4PB	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 attached to planning permission 231691	Comments not being accepted	Approved
232365	Broadmoor Cottage Woolhope HR1 4QX,	Proposed single and two storey rear extension and single storey link to join to existing carport, which is to be converted to hobby room under permitted development	General Comment – Woolhope Parish	Approved with conditions

**Appendix B: Letter from MF Freemans to Ward Cllr Biggs re Development Land adjacent to Medical Centre**



Letter to Councillor  
Biggs -LC v2 redacted

**For the attention of Cllr. Graham Biggs**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fownhope

Herefordshire

[REDACTED]

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Cllr. Biggs

**Re: Land at Common Hill Lane, Fownhope. Planning ref: 232195 RM**

Please forgive this unsolicited approach.

I represent MF Freeman who are currently building two developments in your Ward.

As a local family owned company we endeavour to work with local stakeholders to address local concerns with any planning applications that we make. In many instances we work with the Ward Councillors in order to address such concerns.

This application has been prepared in accordance with advice we have received from the Council's Planning Department through two pre-application advice submissions, we have used such advice and incorporated such comments in our submission.

We have submitted a reserved matters application in respect of the above site to Herefordshire Council and we are aware that you attended the Parish Council meeting when the application was discussed.

The principle of vehicle and pedestrian access and provision of new homes on the site was established by the Outline Planning Approval (Ref: P171637-O) for 10 houses previously granted to the site owner in November 2020. Our current reserved matters planning application is compliant with the original outline permission and we now seek to establish the finer grain of detail for the scheme including its layout, appearance, landscaping and scale.

The 10 homes for sale on the open market comprise a mix of detached and semi-detached houses and one bungalow, all are of varying ridge heights to sensitively integrate with the existing built form on this edge of Fownhope. We have ensured that the properties are either 1.5 storeys or single storey to respond positively to the topography of the site and immediate area.

The proposed homes are a mix of two, three and four bedroomed properties which is compliant with the Council's latest evidence on housing mix and therefore compliant with Policy H3 '*Housing Mix*' of the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

The proposed homes will be built with a range of materials reflective of the immediate local area predominantly brick with some render to create a contrast. The scheme will incorporate high levels of insulation and the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps ensure the proposed homes are "A" rated sustainable homes. Each property will have its own water butt and other sustainable features. The whole site will be served by a SUD's drainage system which will create an improvement to local storm water drainage.

To the rear of the site we have located an area of open space with a footpath link to an existing public footpath to create a safe link to the rest of the village. The open space will be informally landscaped to successfully transition the site to the countryside and incorporate an ecologically valuable orchard of heritage fruit trees.

We have taken into consideration the vast majority of the comments made by the statutory consultees and local objectors to the scheme. This includes changes to the design and boundary treatments in order to reduce the impact of the proposed development on the neighbouring properties. Where we are able we have worked hard to overcome the issues raised and where appropriate we have responded to the best of our ability.

Many of the objections received relate to the principle of development and access however, the site was allocated in the Fownhope Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) at Policy FW9 and now benefits from an Outline Planning Permission (ref: 171637) so objection to the principle of development and the access is no longer being considered by the LPA because this has already been dealt with and approved.

One issue that has been voiced is the removal of the hedge on the site frontage. The access and hedge removal were approved at Outline stage however, we intend to plant a new hedge along the site frontage once the access has been formed but we also intend to hedge the open perimeter of the site. We intend to remove 60m of hedge and intend to plant a further 386m of hedging on site. This will help reduce the impact on the ANOB. This additional hedging has been introduced to respond to the comments made by the public and the landscape officer. We are happy to include this within the scheme because it adds to the bio-diversity net gain and also creates a better development for the future residents and local stakeholders.

Comments were received regarding flooding on Common Hill Lane. We have agreed works to the existing ditches/culverts with the Council to improve surface water drainage and as our development will utilise SUDs the flow of surface water from the site will be reduced.

External lighting has been put forward as an issue as Fownhope has a Dark Sky Policy. We do not intend to propose street lighting and as with our other schemes in the village all external lighting will utilise downlighters and be Dark Sky compliant.

Concerns have been put forward with regards to the type and position of fencing. Much of this fencing has been removed and replaced with hedging.



Comments have been made regarding the choice of certain materials therefore, we have replaced such materials such as the colour of the timber cladding to certain units. We have also produced a revised materials precedent study to demonstrate why we have used the materials we have and we have consulted with the planning officer and the parish council on these materials.

Reference has been made regarding the impact on Church Croft and other dwellings. We have deliberately designed the scheme so that proposed dwelling to the rear of the site are 1.5 storey or a bungalows in order to overcome such impact. We have also amended the relevant boundaries treatments and further enhanced the garden designs in order to project privacy of existing homes.

We understand that there is concern regarding the use of studies in the housetypes. Since the pandemic many of our purchasers work from home and require an office, sometimes used by two people so such studies have been included to meet the demand of the local area. This approach contributes to the creation of balanced and inclusive communities as sought by Policy H3.

In order to reduce the disruption from construction a well-considered traffic management plan and Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted for approval to Herefordshire Council through planning condition discharge. As a responsible local developer, our Senior Management Team are looking to reduce the impact of the development, and in particular the drainage connections, on the adjoining properties and Medical Centre. We will carry out the development in accordance with our CEMP and Traffic Management Plan in order to minimise the disruption on local home owners and to ensure that the Medical Centre remains open during their usual opening hours which will no doubt involve working through a limited number of weekends.

We would value the opportunity to meet with you and explain the changes we have made in order to respond to some local objection concerns and how we are trying to reduce the impact of the development on its surroundings. We feel overall that we have worked hard to address all of the requirements of planning policy and have created a scheme that the new residents will be pleased to live in. We also feel that we have been considerate of all stakeholders and have systematically dealt with each issue raised and mitigated any concerns or improved our design where we can.

Should you wish to meet perhaps you could provide me with some convenient dates and times.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding our application please let me know.

Kind regards

Ian Green

**Ian Green**

**Senior Land and Planning Manager**

**MF Freeman Group of Companies** [www.mffreeman.co.uk](http://www.mffreeman.co.uk)

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**Appendix C: Finance Report**

**REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023  
**REPORT BY:** Helen Tinson, Clerk/RFO  
**AGENDA ITEM:** 8a: Finance Report

**Bank Balances:**

Lloyds: £5652.92 (excludes payments to be approved 1.11.23)

Lloyds Reserve: £33,771.77

Hargreaves Lansdown: £20,850.17 (at 31.10.23)

Total funds held across all banks and investments at 31.10.23 = £60,274.86

**Budget 2024/2025:**

The draft budget has been published in the Flag and on the website for public consultation and will be brought to full council for approval at the December meeting. The precept will be submitted to Herefordshire Council once approved and received in two equal instalments – April and September 2023.

There is nothing further of note to report this month.

**Appendix D: Clerk Report**

**REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023  
**REPORT BY:** Helen Tinson, Clerk/RFO  
**AGENDA ITEM:** 17: Clerk Report

**Freedom of Information Request:**

I have responded to an FoI request for communications between the Parish Council and its Steering Group and Herefordshire Council and for any communication referring to the inclusion of Policy FW2, Safeguarding the Wye Valley AONB.

Whilst we hold little digital correspondence (in accordance with the Documents Retention and Disposals Policy adopted last November), there is still an archive of paper records at Faulkner House. It took quite some time to catalog the papers, none of which are required to be retained. There is an obligation to retain papers for 6 months post adoption but then it is recommended that the papers are destroyed. The Planning Group have expressed a wish to retain the records until any review of the NDP has been carried out, after which time it is recommended that we destroy the archive.

**FNMH:**

I have responded to a request from FNMH Committee to name the PC as the insurable interest on their insurance policy in the event for example that the hall is burnt to the ground and needs to be re-built. I sought advice from Lynda at HALC who responded thus:

*'I don't believe that the PC is able to be the beneficiary of a charity, therefore the £1m would go to the Charity Commission.*

*If the hall trustees were all to resign, the building would be managed by the Charity Commission, it would not revert to the PC, even though the PC took out a long-term loan. Whilst I was clerk at FPC, I recall that the hall came into a large legacy and offered to pay back some of the loan that the parishioners are still paying off, but I believe that the Charity Commission said that the trustees were not lawfully able to give charitable funds to a non-charitable body! Once charitable, always charitable.*

*I strongly suggest that the Hall Committee raises the matter with the Charity Commission and does not name the PC as beneficiary unless the Charity Commission gives its permission in writing.'*

### **Tree works at Cherry Hill:**

I have been informed by Tilhill that a recent tree safety survey has identified a considerable number of trees requiring either felling or some remedial work at Fownhope Park/Cherry Hill. They have engaged Acer Tree Services to carry out the first phase of this work, which they hope will be starting soon.

“Some of this work is required due to the progression of Ash Dieback disease, and some is due to a general deterioration in the vitality of the trees due to age or other environmental factors. Where these trees do not pose a hazard to boundaries, neighbouring properties, roads, footpaths or powerlines they will be retained, but where there is the potential for a third party to be at risk we must take action.”

I have been asked to include a short note in the newsletter to inform people that use and/or neighbour the wood that this work is planned. They have asked Acer Tree Services to make contact with the neighbours before starting work on trees in close proximity to their properties, as appropriate.