**Minutes of the meeting of the Broad Oak Working Group**

**Held Thursday 15th February 2024 at 5.00 p.m. at the Broad Oak site and subsequently in The Lamb**

**Present:** Sarah Cross, Peter Kidds, David Wright, John Kingdom, Miles Snowdon, Olivia Kennard

Apologies for Absence: Sheila Woodland, Josh Wright

The group met at the site of the fallen Broad Oak to assess the remains of the tree and wood available to the community to use.

SC explained that the root and main trunk would be left in situ as it was too heavy to move. MDDC were going to make it safe and it could become an ecological habitat and somewhere for children and young people to play. The larger branches, which are currently lying behind the tree, will be made safe and left for the time being. If the community can come up with good uses for the wood, MDDC are open to negotiation. Otherwise, everything on MDDC land will remain in the ownership of the Council to dispose of as they see fit in due course.

The smaller logs piled up next to the children’s play park are for the Community to deal with. Any requests for wood must be channelled through the Clerk and decisions as to its eventual disposal, taken by the SPC.

Meeting at The Lamb

1. MS suggested setting up an email account for the group to use, and possibly a Facebook page in the future. MS to set up the email account.
2. MS said that it had been suggested by St Mary’s Church that a boss depicting the oak be incorporated into the ceiling of the church whilst repairs are being done. MS to produce a draft drawing of the tree for possible use.
3. Those experts who have offered their services in connection with the tree should be contacted to see what they are proposing and at what cost.
4. MS said Simon Steer had offered to help transport the timber to sawmills and artisans when the time came.
5. MS said he would contact dendrochronoligists and other agents to see how they could help. He would invite Nikki Shaw, environmentalist/ecologist, and Sam Burnett to the next meeting.
6. DW and JK to research the timber on site and deal with sawmills and artisans who wanted the wood.
7. Peter Kidds would like to see something similar to stepping logs, or some sort of climbing frame incorporated into the children’s playground. SC to contact Rhino Play and other play equipment experts for ideas and costs. Also contact Rob Collins, a structural engineer in the village.
8. It was suggested a competition could be run for young people to send in ideas as to what the wood could be used for. Also to liaise with the school so that the children could be involved in a similar competition to use some of the wood to build/make something for the school.
9. A brand to be commissioned depicting the tree and possibly its age, to be branded onto all items made from the wood.
10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 28th February at 7.00 pm in the Silverton Inn.