

Minutes of the meeting of the Broad Oak Working Group

Held Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at The Lamb Inn, Silverton

Present: Olivia Kennard, Miles Snowdon, David Wright, John Kingdom and Nikki Shaw

Apologies for absence: Sam Burnett, Sarah Cross, Sheila Woodland and Peter Kidds

1. OK said she had spoken to Mrs Custance-Baker about storing the wood in the barns at Hayne House. Mrs C-B would like to know how much wood there is before committing. DW gave a ball park figure of 450cu m but it was difficult to tell until brash had been moved from the pile next to the playpark. OK to report back to Mrs C-B once DW has done some further calculations to attempt a closer estimate of the amount. Further discussion ensued on who else might be willing to store wood in their barns.
2. OK to ask Simon Hedges if he would set up a suitable group email similar to that for the SPNP which has worked well.
3. MS suggested we maximise the opportunity to sell wood to finance the cutting up, removing and storage of the wood.
4. Discussion on how to memorialise the tree in a lasting legacy. JK said the remains of the root and base of the trunk would be one such legacy. Bosses for the church on the side where the exposed beams do not have any, would be another.
5. Save some oak in cut form for future repairs to the church, depending on where it can be stored for potentially many years.
6. MS has spoken to Simon Steer who has volunteered to move wood. SS says a lorry could go in and collect the wood once it is dry and deliver it to store or sawmill. Discussion ensued as to whether this would be feasible and SS's ability to load the heavier logs. Possibly hire a trailer with a winch to collect and take it to store or sawmill. DW suggested looking for someone who works heavy horses to haul logs to where they can be loaded at the roadside.
7. MS suggested selling some to pay for work to clear and cut up what we can keep.
8. Discussion to encourage a sawmill in the village
9. DW suggested that when log pile sorted, what is left could be offered for sale to those who are interested.
10. Keep parish informed on what is happening via FB, parish mag and notice on board. MS to draft something and send round to group to approve to put on FB. A suggestion was made to make up A5 leaflet for parishioners to pick up from the SPC table at the Saturday mini markets. These could be updated regularly

11. NS suggested the school could possibly be encouraged to make paper from the chippings. NS to talk to school.
12. Someone with a chainsaw license could work behind the existing fencing to cut up some for those who wished to make small items to sell at the Street Market. Needs to be done soon to give craftsmen time to do the work. DW could cut slices of the wood for selling at the Street Market.
13. MS said he had sourced a firm who could make 50mm(£50) and 60mm (£60mm) the brands and would be ordering them at his own expense without any guarantee on reimbursement from the SPC.
14. MS suggested pursuing one of the suggestions made on FB following the tree fall who made cut outs of small animals. MS suggested these could be sold and people could collect a set. NS to make a list of lichens, animals and insects/beetles which could have made the tree home over the years.
15. The date for the next meeting was agreed Monday 23rd April at 7.00 pm in Room4U. Availability of Room4U was to be ascertained.