

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING  
HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021  
VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
TO DISCUSS THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION  
IN RESPECT OF TREES AT KLONDYKE**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors**

S. Cockburn-Price  
M. Iqbal – Caller In  
D. Whipp – Caller In

**In Attendance:**

Rose Rouse	Chief Executive
Philip Mousdale	Corporate Director
Lee Johnson	Principal Environment Officer- Trees & Environment
Joanne Eccles	Committee Administrator

**1. TREES AT KLONDYKE**

**DECISION CALLED IN**

At its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 Policy and Resources Committee considered an item 'Trees at Klondyke.' The minute is shown below and resulted in a Call-In Notice being submitted by Councillors M. Iqbal, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

*"That the three Ash trees located adjacent to Earby Road, Salterforth be removed subject to confirmation they were on land owned by the Council."*

**REASON FOR CALL-IN**

Due to the action agreed being disproportionate to the alleged problem identified, which in itself is an issue of professional disagreement, and the consequential implications of the impact on PBC trees elsewhere where there's deemed to be a 'risk' to the public.

**SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION**

That a third independent arborist be asked to advise on the condition of the trees, the risk that they pose and any action required to be taken. In addition, that members of the Committee carry out a site visit prior to further discussion on the issue.

**DISCUSSION**

Councillor D. Whipp reiterated the reason for the call-in. Councillor S. Cockburn-Price said that unfortunately the trees at Klondyke were dying. If they could be treated or saved she would be in favour of retaining them. However, she did not feel that it was good use of public money to commission a third independent arborist to advise on the condition of the trees or for the Council to maintain them, only for the inevitable to happen. She said that the Council, as the landowner, had to take its responsibilities seriously and that these trees were adjacent to a public highway, posing

a risk. She believed that felling the trees was the right thing to do. She had not undertaken a site visit and was happy to rely on the advice from the Principal Environment Officer.

The Principal Environment Officer said that his opinion as a qualified arborist, and that of the independent tree consultancy the Council used, was that if left standing, the trees would decline. Their condition could not be improved, so they would need to be managed and that the most cost-effective action was to remove them. He estimated annual costs for inspection work and maintaining the trees would be at least £1,000, just to close the highway.

There was a discussion as to whether the trees were on the highway or Pendle Council owned land. Councillor D. Whipp said that adopted highway in law ran from fence line to fence line. The Principal Environment Officer referred to the LCC's Mario system which showed that just the road was the adopted highway.

Reference was made to Forestry Commission advice about a small percentage of trees being tolerant to the disease, and the possibility that the trees at Klondyke were such trees. The Principal Environment Officer said that this tolerance was only to be found in a very small number of ash trees and that there was very little resistance to the disease being seen in this area.

Councillor D. Whipp asked about 5 TPO trees that, according to Salterforth Parish Council, had been removed in Salterforth without permission. The Principal Environment Officer said that these trees were not ash trees, notice had been served on the landowner and a caution issued.

## **AGREED**

That a note of this meeting be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 when the decision would be reconsidered.