DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/24/1235: Harwoods Garages Ltd, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 1AR.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Pulborough Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal.
No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The two Plane trees the subject of this application (T1 & T2) are the huge old veteran London planes, known locally as 'Captain Cook's trees. This is apparently not because they were planted by Captain Cook himself but by the son of a Pulborough Rector who sailed with him to Australia in HMS Endeavour. As this trip commenced on 26th August 1768 it must be assumed that the trees were planted very shortly before that, making them at least 243 years old. Both trees have been recorded as Veteran trees on the woodland trust Ancient tree inventory.

2. Right on the edge of the A29, these enormous trees are very visible when viewed within the local landscape context, and are of outstanding amenity value, and, given their historical connection, are possibly the most valued trees in the village. As such, it is considered that works to live parts should only take place when there is the strongest justification to do so.

3. The applicant seeks consent to pollard both Plane trees. Pollarding is a form of pruning that removes all of the smaller foliage-bearing branches back to an established pruning point, commonly known as knuckles. This form of management is normally started when a tree is young, and once a tree reaches a certain height, annual pollarding will restrict the plant to that height.

4. While it is apparent that the trees have been subject to some fairly robust works, in the past, from which they have recovered well. However, given the age and high landscape value of the two trees, to initiate a pollarding regium at this stage in their tier life cycle would not be appropriate and would likely have a detrimental impact on their overall health as well as result in a significant loss of visual amenity to the area; as such this aspect of the application shall be refused.

5. It is considered that the proposed works to the sycamore and Alder trees are reasonable and justified and will not cause harm to the character and amenities of the locality. And can proceed as proposed.

RECOMMENDATION:
Split Decision Grant consent to the works to trees T3 and T4 to the subject to the conditions below.
Refuse the works to T1 and T2 on the grounds that the level of proposed works would considerably alter how the trees are viewed within the local landscape thus resulting in harm to the character and amenities of the locality, an action which appears to be is unjustified for the reasons stated.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3 *Treeworks limit (standard) (T3 &T4)*
3. TR4 *Surgery standards*
TINF1 *Note to applicant.*
TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

Authorising Officer sign……ANBU…….. ***Arboricultural Officer (Development).***

Date……17 Oct 24…