

**Agenda Item P
25.91**

Report to	Findon Parish Council Planning Committee
Meeting Date	55 September 2025
From	Fiona MacLeod, Clerk
Title of Report	SDNP/25/03296/TPO Sycamore Tree, Pond Green
Purpose of Report	For update and consideration

1. Background

- 1.1 Councillors will be aware that the above application to fell the Sycamore tree was given consent by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on 5 September 2025, with a Condition that the works take place within two years of that date.
- 1.2 Councillors will also be aware that urgent remedial action to take down a large damaged bough of the tree was required in the summer. Following that, a tree condition assessment was undertaken by Connick Tree Care with a recommendation that felling work should be undertaken within three months of their report dated 5 July 2025 to mitigate potential hazards.
- 1.3 Two quotes were requested to carry out this work once the consent Condition had been received from the SDNPA, however neither were available for consideration at the FPC meeting on 15 September 2025. Since then, Connick Tree Care have advised that the earliest they could carry out a site visit for a quote would be 14 October 2025. AC Gardens (Sussex) Ltd have now confirmed that their quote alluded to at the July 2025 FPC meeting remains valid (Appendix 1 to the report) and could schedule in the works for late October/early November 2025.
- 1.4 The next FPC meeting is not until 20 October 2025 which would be very short timescales for approval of the quote and the subsequent scheduling of the works, given the condition of the tree. The FPC Financial Regulations allow for, in the cases of extreme risk to the delivery of Council services, for the Clerk to authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the Council which in the Clerk's judgement is necessary to carry out, subject to a financial limit of £1k. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement, or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure.
- 1.5 The Xmas Lights team are aware of the proposed felling and have identified an alternative option for the Pond Green lighting without the Sycamore tree.

2. Issues for consideration/ratification by full Council

- 2.1 Does the Planning Committee agree in principle to para 1.4 of the report to meet the SDNPA Consent Condition and Connick Tree Care recommendation to fell the tree, with ratification at the FPC meeting on 20 October 2025, and thereby arrange for the scheduling of the works to be undertaken by AC Gardens (Sussex) Ltd.