

HARVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON 14th OCTOBER 2020.
REVIEWED September 2024.

The aim of this policy is to manage trees on land owned or managed by Harvington Parish Council to ensure that the trees are managed safely. It also acts as a point of reference for the public, councillors and council employee to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

Harvington Parish Council is responsible for the trees situated:

- Playing Field, rear of Station Road - in the grounds of the playing field area and in between the two boundary wire fences.
- Jubilee Orchard.
- Tree on Village Green, opposite Village Hall, Station Road.
- Tree on Village Green at junction of Rectory Close and Village Street.

NB: (The conifer trees to the rear of property known as Magnolia are in the ownership of this household).

This Policy has been put in place:

- To ensure that all of the trees that are situated on Parish Council land remain in a safe and sustainable condition as far as reasonably practicable.
- To ensure that the Council will allocate sufficient resources to its budget annually to ensure that it is able to manage the risk.
- To ensure that the condition of the trees and the risk that they pose an annual inspection is carried out to monitor and inspect the trees on Council owned land.
- Only essential or minimal work will be undertaken, and the type of work required will depend on the tree location, species and its state of health at the time of inspection.
- Tree pruning or felling will only take place outside the bird nesting season of March to August, unless matters of public safety dictate otherwise.
- Dead wood will be left standing or on the ground in habitat piles wherever possible and practicable.
- In considering any action the Council will take account of the amenity value of the trees concerned.
- To satisfy insurance policy recommendations.

The following inspections will be undertaken:

1. A formal two-year risk assessment will be carried out by a competent person.
2. An informal yearly inspection will be carried out by the Council's contractor that has the experience to do this work. This inspection will be a visual inspection from ground level only. Ad-hoc informal inspections by a designated councillor or councillors following exceptional weather events (high winds etc.) or a report by a member of the public.
3. The timing of inspections must be appropriate to identify dead wood in the tree canopy.

Tree Work

The Council will carry out work in the following circumstances:

- Where there is deemed to be significant change to any or possible risk to the public or to a property.
- Where work is required to prolong life or promote development of good tree structure.
- Where a dead, dying, diseased or otherwise dangerous tree is identified.
- Remove major dead wood which overhangs private property or publicly accessible spaces.
- Remove dangerous or damaged limbs.

- Prune branches which could damage structures or cables where safe to do so.
- Type of work undertaken will depend on the tree location, species and their state of health at the time.
- Prune branches to maintain highway safety and visibility

The Council **will not** fell or prune trees on Council owned land:

- Be aware of the **Trees and High Hedges Act 2005** whereby boundary trees can be cut down if they obstruct light
- For reasons of loss of view
- For the reason that they are causing interference with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception

In carrying out the above works the Council will have full regard as to whether a tree is in a conservation area or has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) placed upon it. Advice and approval will be sought from Wychavon District Council.

The Council's present Contractor is competent to advise on Tree Surgery, holds Public Liability Insurance cover and has a current License with the Environment Agency to carry and remove waste.

Residents must **not** carry out work on trees on Council owned land without first contacting the Clerk and receiving written permission to do so.

Adjacent landowners to trees on Parish Council Land have a common law right to prune back branches to their boundary, providing the tree in question is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order or situated in a Conservation Area.

Parish Tree Warden Scheme.

The Parish Tree Warden is a voluntary post, in accordance with Worcestershire County Council Tree Officer and is appointed by the Parish Council.

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded by the Tree Council and is co-ordinated by the County Council.

Tree Wardens are volunteers, appointed by parish councils or other community organisations, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods.