



TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Management Policy

1.0 Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out how [Parish Council] will manage trees on land it owns or is responsible for, in order to:

- Fulfil its duty of care to the public.
- Protect and enhance the local environment.
- Minimise the risk of harm or damage to people and property from council-owned trees.
- Ensure a proportionate and reasonable approach to tree maintenance, in line with available resources.

2.0 Legal Responsibilities Tutbury Parish Council recognises that it has:

- A duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm caused by trees (common law negligence).
- Responsibilities under the Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984.
- No automatic liability for damage caused by roots unless negligence can be shown (e.g., failure to inspect or act on known problems).

3.0 Tree Inspection and Maintenance Regime

3.1 Tree Survey

- The Parish Council will commission a qualified arboriculturist to undertake a tree condition survey every three years.
- The survey will identify any works required to maintain trees in a safe condition.

3.2 Ongoing Inspections

- Additional inspections may be undertaken:
 - Following storms or extreme weather.
 - In response to specific concerns raised by residents or councillors.

4.0 Tree Works

- Where works are recommended for safety reasons, they will be prioritised and carried out as soon as reasonably practicable, subject to budget and contractor availability.
- Non-safety works (such as requests for pruning to improve light or reduce leaf fall) will not normally be undertaken unless there are exceptional circumstances.

5.0 Tree Root and Property Damage

- Tutbury Parish Council will consider any reports of alleged damage from tree roots on a case-by-case basis.
- Where evidence suggests damage may have been caused by a council-owned tree, the council will:
 - Notify its insurers.
 - Commission further investigation if appropriate.
- Residents are advised to contact their own home insurers in the first instance.

6.0 Environmental Considerations

- Tutbury Parish Council recognises the environmental and amenity value of trees and will seek to preserve healthy trees wherever possible.
- Felling or removal will only be undertaken where necessary for safety, to prevent proven damage, or for sound arbouricultural reasons.

7.0 Record Keeping the Council will maintain:

- A tree registers recording inspections, surveys, and works undertaken.
- A record of all complaints, reports, or incidents involving council-owned trees.
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8.0 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed Annually or sooner if required by changes in legislation or best practice guidance.