



## Slindon Parish Council's Tree Management Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy sets out the Parish Council's approach to the management of trees for which it is responsible as sole managing trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity. Others will need to be contacted where a tree is located on their land. Overhanging vegetation is the responsibility of a landowner.
- 1.2. This document has been created to provide a clear and consistent approach regarding the management of its trees.
- 1.3. The Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that all trees on land for which it has a responsibility are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put people or property at unreasonable risk.

### 2. Inspection

- 2.1 All trees on the Recreation Ground will be inspected annually by a qualified tree inspector and any recommendations made will be considered by the Council in line with this policy.

### 3. Maintenance

- 3.1. The Council adopts a proactive approach to tree maintenance, although any works will be undertaken in order to manage a tree as the Council supports a policy of tree preservation. The type of works undertaken will depend on the tree's location, the species of tree and its state of health at that time.
- 3.2. Regular visual inspections will be carried out by Council members to identify issues at the earliest opportunity, so that preventative action can be taken where possible.
- 3.3. Tree works will usually only be undertaken in the following circumstances
  - 3.3.1. Where an inspection has identified the tree as potentially hazardous or an immediate danger.
  - 3.3.2. If the works are vital to the tree's long-term survival.
  - 3.3.3. When previous maintenance regimes have determined future works are of the same specification for that specimen e.g. pollarding, crown reduction.
- 3.4 The impact on local wildlife of all tree works, specifically felling and pruning, will always be thoroughly considered, with the impact minimised where possible.
- 3.5. All tree work will be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon appointed by the Parish Council and in accordance with BS/3998/2010 Recommendations for

Tree Work 2010 (and any subsequent revisions). All works must have Parish Council approval and be carried out by the Parish Council's appointed Tree Surgeon based on their professional advice.

#### **4. Protected Trees**

- 4.1. A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) prevents cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees (including cutting roots) without permission.
- 4.2. Approval for works will be obtained from the South Downs National Park for trees with a TPO or located in the Conservation Area.

#### **5. Requests for Tree Work**

- 5.1. Whilst the Council will consider the impact of trees in each case on individual merit, the Council will not fell or prune trees
  - 5.1.1. To alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena e.g. falling leaves, fruit, seeds/berries, bird droppings, pollen etc.
  - 5.1.2. For reasons of increasing sunlight/views to properties and gardens.
- 5.2. Adjacent landowners have a common law right to prune back tree branches to their boundary (subject to any legal restrictions being overcome first such as Tree Preservation Orders or conservation areas).

#### **6. Hedges**

Hedges provide an important habitat for a wide range of species, offering food, shelter, protection from predators, wintering and nesting sites, and trimming hedges too severely can have a detrimental impact on wildlife. However, it will ensure that hedge growth does not impair the safety of users nor impede their access. Hedge cutting will not usually be conducted in the nesting season from March to August except for urgent health and safety reasons.

#### **7. Lease on the Top Field dated 1.10.2015 from the Churchwardens**

Responsibility lies with the Churchwardens, albeit, pending discussions at renewal, at the discretion of the Parish Council, such works may be authorised and paid for by the Parish Council as shall be considered necessary to maintain the health, safety and welfare of users.