Woodbury Parish Council

(serving Exton, Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton)

Tree Management Policy

Policy adopted: 13th January 2025 and reviewed annually.

GENERAL STATEMENT

1. OVERVIEW

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Woodbury Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Contractors to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

Trees are valued for the significant contributions they make to wellbeing and quality of lie within the area. Trees are managed to promote biodiversity, climate mitigation and visual amenity but need to be managed in a way that promotes their safety and health.

2. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure the Council's tree stock is regularly inspected and managed to ensure public safety and to minimise risk to property, in areas where the public may walk or sit beneath trees.

3. OBJECTIVES AND COMMITMENT

Council objectives toward fulfilling this policy are:

- Ensure tree stock is maintained in a cost-effective manner, maximising visual amenity and associated environmental benefits whilst minimising risks to public safety and property.

- Ensure that the work undertaken on Parish Council trees is done to a high standard, is appropriate and in line with best arboriculturally practice.

- Ensure appropriate management of trees which are important for biodiversity, as wildlife corridors or as landscape features.

- Promote the positive contribution made by trees to open spaces, including the value which they have for wildlife.

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY

- Identify opportunities for appropriate tree planting schemes including community orchards.

4. TREE WORKS

Woodbury Parish Council ensures that a detailed inspection of trees on Council owned land is carried out by a qualified Arboriculturist on a 3 yearly basis, unless the need arises for more frequent inspections.

Informal observations and formal inspections will be carried out during the period between the detailed inspections, as appropriate and in high risk areas, e.g. Woodbury Village Green. Any trees identified as showing signs of crown dieback, fungal activity of decay, will be monitored by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

The Parish Council will request that any arborist or tree surgeon carrying out work on trees on Parish Council owned land should provide the Parish Council with a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and ensure that they adhere to the appropriate standards.

Whilst maintaining Parish Council owned trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on wildlife will be minimal.

Whilst maintaining Parish Council owned trees, dangerous and damaged limbs, dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees, will be removed. (Guidance will be taken from the Tree Specialist). Trees removed will be replaced with a suitable specimen on a one for one basis in the nearest most suitable location.

A dangerous branch is one which is dead, shows signs of decay or damage, or weak attachment to the tree and which could cause harm or damage if it fell. Where a dangerous branch is identified the Parish Council has an obligation to make it safe.

5. CONSERVATION AREA AND TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

A Tree Preservation Order is a form of planning control. It prevents cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees without permission from the East Devon District Council.

The same protections apply to trees in a Conservation Area and also require permission from the East Devon District Council.

Consent is required to work on trees in a Conservation Area or that are protected by a TPO. Planning applications to East Devon District Council are usually dealt with in 6 weeks.

6. AREAS OF TREE MANAGEMENT

Exton:

- Exton Play Park

Woodbury:

- Village Green, play park and car park area
- WCPF Recreation Ground
- Cricket Field/Dog walking area
- Allotment
- Flower Street car park
- Seating area opposite The Church Rooms

Woodbury Salterton:

- Play Park
- Allotment
- New Plantation
- Old Plantation

Additionally, across the Parish some trees come under the P3 Footpath Scheme.