

Stoke Golding Parish Council Tree Maintenance Policy

- This policy sets out Stoke Golding Parish Council's approach to the management of trees on land owned by the Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent, and structured approach to the management of trees.
- This policy should ensure that officers can deal with enquiries confidently and that members of the public are treated consistently in line with the policy. It should also ensure that trees are not pruned or removed unnecessarily, and the environment is protected.
- This policy provides guidelines on the action the Parish Council will take in response to requests to prune and maintain trees on land managed by the Council.
- Stoke Golding Parish Council is responsible for managing its trees in a safe condition and ensuring that they do not create a legal nuisance such as causing damage to property. To fulfil this responsibility the Parish Council will undertake an annual inspection of trees. Preventative works identified from these inspections are then included in an on-going tree maintenance programme, thereby ensuring that trees are protected and remain as healthy as possible.
- Any works to a tree which is subject to a Preservation Order or within a conservation area will only be carried out where consent from the appropriate authorities has been received.
- All work will be undertaken by the Council's in-house grounds maintenance team or qualified contractors.
- Any work carried out will be subject to available budget which will be applied on a priority scale.
- Any work will only be undertaken by the Parish Council in accordance with the following priority list and subject to inspection by a professional arboriculturist and the necessary permissions been approved:

Priority 1 – Public Safety

The Parish Council will undertake all work which removes actual hazards to safeguard the public and property.

Priority 2 – Remedial/Preventative Works

The Parish Council will undertake all work which:

- a) Remove potential hazards that may subsequently threaten public safety or property.
- b) Prevent or minimise the effects of a tree on the structure of a property.

Priority 3 – Management of Veteran Trees

The Parish Council will, where public safety is not compromised, undertake work which:

- a) Conserves trees with high ecological value.
- b) Preserves trees with significant local historical and / or aesthetic value.

Priority 4 – Young Tree Maintenance

The Parish Council will undertake all work which:

- a) Assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy.
- b) Enables new tree planting to reach its full potential.
- c) Self setting trees will be removed as necessary.

The Parish Council is unable to undertake one-off, reactive inspections to consider general nuisance issues such as:

- Shade onto a garden or property.
- Deposits of seed / leaf litter.
- Tree is considered too large.
- Summer honeydew deposits.
- Droppings from roosting birds.
- TV reception interference.

If you require any further information, contact the Clerk on:
clerk.stokegoldingpc@gmail.com

Adopted: 3rd July 2019

Last Reviewed: This policy will be reviewed annually, unless required earlier by legislation or additional material.

Reviewed November 2022