

WOODTON PARISH COUNCIL

TREE POLICY

Introduction

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Woodton Parish Council.

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that land / tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on their land. This means that the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.

Any queries regarding trees belonging to Woodton Parish Council, should be made to the Parish Council, telephone 01508 493134 or email clerk@woodtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Trees situated with the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. You can contact them at information@norfolk.gov.uk.

Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Woodton Parish Council aims to preserve Woodton's trees for future generations to enjoy.

Work that Woodton Parish Council will carry out on Council owned trees

In maintaining our trees we will:

- Remove dead, diseased, dying and dangerous trees
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
- Comply with legal obligations in respect of any tree that is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

It is our policy to survey our trees on a regular basis, but if trees require works under this section, members of the public should contact clerk@woodtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The trees will be inspected and if works are required this will be programmed as necessary.

Work that Woodton Parish Council will not carry out on Council owned trees

We have no obligation to carry out the following tree works:

- Cut back branches overhanging private property.

- ‘Top’ trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease height in relation to property.
- Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris.
- Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures.
- Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs. Fences etc.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds
- Remove completely any healthy trees regardless of variety.

If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this Section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

Carrying out tree works yourself and pruning guidance

In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their expense, provided that:

- Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land; if access to our land or to a tree on that land is required, our permission must be sought.
- The tree is not situated in a Conservation area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)
- Any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon.
- For tree pruning work, whoever does the work, it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998: 2010
- The property owner notifies us (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

The Council does not carry out works to privately owned trees

Policy Review

Date of policy: This policy was reviewed, amended and formally re-adopted at Parish Council meeting 6th August 2024.