



# **WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

## **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **1. Introduction**

Willand Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure that trees on land it owns or leases within the village do not pose an unacceptable risk of harm to people and property and are managed to provide public benefit.

### **2. Key objectives**

The Parish Council has the following key objectives:

- To ensure the tree stock is managed in a cost-effective manner, maximising public enjoyment and environmental benefit.
- To ensure that the risk to public safety and property is as low as reasonably practicable.
- To ensure that all work is carried out to a high standard and is considered appropriate.
- To ensure that trees, hedges and open spaces are appropriately managed to promote biodiversity and wildlife.

### **3. Tree Assessment & Inspection**

An active assessment of trees and hedges within Council controlled areas will be undertaken by a competent and qualified arboricultural consultant every four years.

Trees may be assessed more frequently or a more detailed inspection undertaken where recommended by the appointed consultant and as agreed by the Parish Council.

A list of open spaces and trees and hedges within these which the Council is responsible for can be found at Appendix 1.

### **4. Tree Work**

In an emergency or where damage has been caused that impacts on the safety of people or property the Parish Clerk will instruct a competent arboricultural contractor to undertake remedial work as soon as it is reasonably practical, and where appropriate liaise with the Council's insurer.

Work recommended following tree inspections will be carried out where it presents or will present an unacceptable risk of harm to people or property.

Recommended Tree Management works will be considered at a meeting of the Council and carried out if it is resolved to do so.

The Council will use appropriately competent and qualified contractors for tree work.

The Council will ensure that the appropriate permissions are in place where work is to be undertaken on legally protected trees.

**This policy was approved and adopted by Willand Parish Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and will be reviewed at least once every four years.**

## APPENDIX 1 - Willand Parish Council Areas of Open Space

1. Jubilee Field Recreation Ground – The Parish Council owns half the field nearest the school and leases the other half from Mid Devon District Council. The Parish Council is responsible for the oak in the leased area of the field, which is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, and the hedge abounding the back of the tennis courts and the Youth Club which has several trees within it. The Parish Council is **NOT** responsible for any trees within the hedge that abounds properties in Somerlea/Lea View/Somerville Park – Mid Devon District Council retain responsibility for the boundary. The trees along the footpath are in the school grounds and are their responsibility.
2. Orchard Way Open Space – The Parish Council leases the open space from Mid Devon District Council and is responsible for the trees within the open space area. It is **NOT** responsible for the hedge boundary and any trees within this.
3. Chestnut Drive Play Area – the Parish Council leases the fenced play area only from Mid Devon District Council. The surrounding green space is owned and maintained by the District Council who are responsible for the trees.
4. Mallow Court Play Area – the Parish Council leases the fenced play area only from Mid Devon District Council.
5. South View Play Area – There is a lack of clarity in the lease as to whether the Parish Council is responsible for the fence boundary only or whether it also has responsibility for the hedge behind the fence. There is an ash tree in the hedge which the Parish Council had re-pollarded in January 2024.
6. Worcester Crescent Play Area – the Parish Council leases the fenced play area and surrounding green space from Mid Devon District Council. The Parish Council is **NOT** responsible for the boundary hedge adjacent to number 12.
7. Allotments, Jaycroft – the Parish Council leases the land from Willand United Charities for use as allotments and is responsible for the trees and hedge boundary.
8. Willand Cemetery - The Parish Council is responsible for the trees, hedges and boundaries at Willand Cemetery but it is **NOT** responsible for the Churchyard.