

TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Management Policy

Adopted by the Council at its meeting dated 18.8.2025 and recorded as Minute reference 3886.01

Introduction

Trees have a vital role to play in the health and wellbeing of our planet. Not only are they crucial in the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and replenishing it with oxygen, but they also support a vast number of animal species, providing a rich habitat, and their roots enrich the soil. It is fair to say that they play a special part in the balance of life on this planet.

For humans too, trees play a huge role in improving mental health, offering peace and tranquillity in a busy and stressful world.

Trees also provide many other benefits, including the provision of shelter and shade, the filtering of air pollution and acting as sound barriers.

Tolleshunt Knights village meadow is a tranquil setting greatly enhanced by many trees of varying ages. It is popular amongst local people for providing a pleasant place to walk and exercise and enjoy the natural world. There are a number of fine mature trees in the open part of the village meadow, with younger trees in the woodland area.

The management of existing trees and woodland.

The Parish Council's objectives are:

- To ensure that tree stock is maintained in a cost effective manner to maximise visual amenity whilst minimising risks to public safety and property.
- To ensure that all works carried out on the trees stock are done to a high standard and in line with best arboricultural practice.
- To ensure appropriate management of trees which are important for biodiversity, as wildlife corridors or as landscape features.
- To promote the positive contribution that trees make to wildlife.

Inspection of trees

An annual visual inspection will be carried out by an appropriately qualified contractor to identify any tree works which are needed. Trees will then be classified as follows:

Red – those requiring urgent work to ensure the safety of the public using the meadow. The Parish Council will appoint qualified contractors to carry out any remedial work required.

Amber – those which have no immediate urgency but need to be monitored. A second visual check may be carried out at any time within the usual check timetable.

Green – those which require no work at the present time.

In addition the Parish Council will conduct its own routine bi-monthly visual inspection, plus additional checks carried out after periods of bad weather.

The results of the above checks will be recorded and minuted as appropriate.

Tree safety and works

The Parish Council will respond promptly to any tree matters involving safety , and will remove dead trees and dangerous or unsafe trees and branches. Any trees which are in decline will be monitored to ensure that they pose no risks to people or property. Decisions will be made in consultation with appropriately qualified contractors.

When carrying out any tree works the Parish Council will comply with all relevant legislation in respect of the protection of nesting birds and other wildlife. Only essential tree works will be carried out in the bird nesting season. Prior to any major works being carried out on mature trees, the potential for bat roosts will be assessed.

There will be a presumption against the removal of existing trees, but should this prove necessary consideration will be given to plant replacements, either in the same or a more suitable location.

All tree works carried out on behalf of the Council will comply with existing and appropriate Standards and legislation and will be carried out by competent and qualified contractors.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or when there are major changes to legislation or best practice in respect of tree management.