

# TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

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<b>Date :</b>	<b>Date :</b>	<b>Date :</b>

## **HISTORY PAGE**

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>
1	First issue of procedure	August 2021

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and maintained by Beetham Parish Council (BPC). It is intended to act as a point of reference for councillors and members of the public to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of our trees. BPC has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to manage its trees to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.

Trees help to add a variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species, while providing us with cleaner air. BPC aims to preserve its trees for future generations to enjoy. BPC has trees situated in the AONB and the Beetham Conservation Area and many of these have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them.

Any queries on trees belonging to BPC should be made to the Clerk to the Council or any Parish Councillor (see Section 9 for Parish Council contact details).

## **2. MANAGEMENT OF TREES ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND**

Every year the Parish Council instructs a qualified arboriculturist to carry out a hazard evaluation survey of the trees on its land. Recommendations are reviewed and appropriate action taken. Relevant trees are included in any risk assessments and appropriate action implemented as soon as possible. The legal framework does not require the elimination of risk altogether, but that the residual risk is minimized to a tolerable level.

The Parish Council's aim is to keep as many trees as possible. The Parish Council does not remove trees with minor defects, only trees that are dead, dying, diseased, or which it considers to pose a danger. It may remove parts of a tree that have died or where there is a very high risk of falling branches causing harm or damage due to their size.

## **3. REPORTING OF TREE PROBLEMS**

A tree's location will dictate where the problem should be reported. If the tree is thought to be on Parish Council land (see plans), report to the Clerk to the Council or any Parish Councillor (see Section 9). Report to South Lakeland District Council if you are unsure whose land the tree is on. The report will then be forwarded to the relevant authority or private landowner.

## **4. PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REPORTS**

Dead, dying or dangerous tree(s) which are :

- (i) on or close to roads or pavements,
- (ii) liable to cause serious structural damage to buildings or
- (iii) could cause injury to people if the tree or branches fall to the ground

should be reported to the Parish Council (see Section 9).

BPC Councillors and employees are not specialists, but will make a visual inspection of the tree(s) and look for any obvious hazards. The Parish Council may request an assessment by an independent competent professional assessor to see if work is needed and may ask a tree specialist for advice. Following the assessment, the Parish Council will advise all concerned of what has been decided.

## **5. SITUATIONS WHERE THE PARISH COUNCIL IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE ACTION.**

The Parish Council has no obligation to cut or remove trees and is unlikely to take action if the reported issue with one of the trees is because of:

- shading a property
- shading solar panels
- touching telephone lines (but will contact the appropriate utility)
- touching power lines (but will contact the appropriate utility)
- touching buildings
- overhanging boundaries (see Section 6)
- bearing fruits, seeds or leaves before or after they leave the tree
- encouraging roosting birds
- interfering with digital or terrestrial signals
- requiring the removal of twigs and small bits of deadwood.

The Parish Council will not approve the removal of one of its trees solely because:

- it has minor defects
- it has grown to its natural height
- it is depositing debris such as leaves, seeds or honeydew
- it is inconvenient for planning applications
- it is considered too close to a property for building insurance, unless evidenced by an insurance company and/or is subject to a claim.

## **6. EXCEPTIONS WHEN WORK ON TREES IS UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OR MORE RESIDENTS**

Should BPC agree to a resident's request to have work done that does not fall within the Tree Management Policy criteria and for which BPC is not responsible, then the resident must:

- commission the work (subject to BPC approval and the conditions required for that approval)
- be seen on all documentation to be the employer of the contractor
- be named as the recipient of the invoice for the work
- be responsible for paying that invoice.

Where the contractor is VAT-registered, then VAT will be added to their bill and will have to be paid by the resident (the customer), as required by law.

## **7. PARISH COUNCIL TREES WHICH OVERHANG A BOUNDARY LINE**

An overhanging tree may be trimmed back by the affected resident, but only if it won't harm the tree and it is safe to do so. If the work requires anything more than pruning by secateurs or loppers from the ground, for example if it involves the sawing of branches at height over the boundary, then a tree care professional will be required to do the work for safety reasons and to avoid damaging the tree. The tree professional must be approved by BPC before commencing any work. Any materials removed from trees must be disposed of appropriately by the tree professional or, in the case of small pruning or lopping from the ground, by the resident carrying out the permitted work.

## **8. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL PRIOR TO APPROVING WORK DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 6 AND 7**

### **8.1 Documentation to be supplied by the Tree Care Professional**

- (i) third party insurance
- (ii) a full risk assessment.
- (iii) confirmation that the work will be carried out in compliance with legal seasonal time limitations re nesting birds

No work should commence until approval is granted by the Parish Council.

## **8.2 Documentation to be supplied by the resident requesting the work**

- (a) A specification for the work to be carried out and which is accepted by the tree care professional.
- (b) Acceptance of full responsibility for the work done and the full cost of the contractor employed.

No work should commence until approval is granted by the Parish Council.

## **9. PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS**

Contact details for the Clerk to the Council and Parish Councillors can be found on the Parish Council website ([www.beethampc.co.uk](http://www.beethampc.co.uk)) and on all Parish Council notice boards.