

PURTON PARISH COUNCIL	TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY
APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	
<i>This policy will be reviewed once every 5 years unless there is a significant change in legislation or staffing requirements</i>	
Signed by Clerk:	Dated:

1. POLICY

Purton Parish Council recognises the potential dangers created by the deterioration of trees. In order to protect the safety of employees and the general public, all areas which are the responsibility of Purton Parish Council and have trees present will be risk rated and surveyed, and all trees will be inspected and maintained. In order to meet its obligations, the Council has adopted the following.

2 RISK AREAS

All areas which are the responsibility of Purton Parish Council and have trees present will be risk rated. The risk areas will have a rating determined on the basis of

- the number and size of trees present
- the frequency of use of the area by numbers of adults and children
- the proximity to village roads, or buildings, or working areas
- the risk to life or property, and whether restricted public access to the area is necessary.

3 HIGH RISK AREAS

There are no High Risk Areas currently identified. There may be High Risk Trees within Medium or Low Risk Areas

4 MEDIUM RISK AREAS

There are 5 Medium Risk Zones currently identified

- Zone A – Village Centre play area
- Zone B – Village Centre other areas
- Zone C – Cemetery
- Zone D – St Mary's Churchyard
- Zone E – Harold Waldron garden

5 LOW RISK AREA

All other areas in the Parish are currently identified as Low Risk Areas

As the level of risk can vary over time, the Clerk and associated staff will carry out an annual review of the areas

- new facilities or developments may add risk areas or change the level of risk
- special events may raise the level of risk – but limited to a period during the event itself.

6 TREE SURVEYS

Tree surveys of High and Medium Risk Areas will be obtained from firms employing competent, suitably qualified, arboriculture staff. Once obtained, the surveys will be used to monitor and reference all future inspections and maintenance carried out.

General common sense visual inspections will be carried out regularly by the grounds staff.

7 TREE INSPECTIONS

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Trees can deteriorate due to age, physical damage or disease, and so there is a need to regularly inspect trees according to their location within Risk Areas – see table below for frequency - and to indicate any actions necessary.

Purton Parish Council does not employ persons who are qualified to carry out tree surveys or inspections, and therefore the Clerk will contract out inspections to firms employing competent, suitably qualified, arboricultural staff.

Programme for Risk Area inspections

Risk Areas	Frequency	Initial Inspection Dates	Inspection Method
High	Yearly	n/a	Walk-by with Individual Level 2 tree inspections
Medium	1½ yearly	Jun '13, Dec '15	Walk-by with Individual Level 2 tree inspections
Low	5 yearly	2013, 2018	Walk-by or drive-by with Individual Level 2 tree inspections
All areas	After storm conditions occur		Drive-by survey –

If potentially hazardous trees are noted, follow up with a walk-by survey

The Clerk will contract out all major maintenance to firms employing competent, suitably qualified, arboricultural staff.

8 FINANCE

Purton Parish Council will ensure that the annual budgets include expenditure sums for tree inspection and maintenance.

SPECIAL TREES and DISEASES

A yew tree in St Mary's Churchyard is reputed to be 1,000 years old and suffered (possible salt damage) during 2012 – after specialist advice, an application of specialist fertiliser to the root area during 2012-13 has improved the condition. This tree will undergo on-going review by the Groundsman and a specialist.

Major national diseases (Dutch Elm disease and Ash dieback) have caused the loss of many trees within the parish – Forestry Commission and other national specialists regularly give advice in such situations.

9 REFERENCE

A large, comprehensive document “Common Sense Risk Management of Trees” has been prepared by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG), and published by the Forestry Commission in December 2011.

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This has become an accepted, industry-standard reference work and is available online for use, free of charge from the Forestry Commission website, under the terms of the open Government License.

Date Reviewed	Revision details
9-10-2009	Formerly Adopted
11-12-17	Revision – no changes proposed