

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Management Policy for Parish Council Trees

Whaddon Parish Council is responsible for the trees in the village which are owned by the Parish Council (see Appendix 1). These are mostly located on, or adjacent to, Whaddon Recreation Ground except for a few commemorative trees planted elsewhere. This policy relates to the Parish Council's trees. Please note that the Recreation Ground have been leased to Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (see relevant section below).

Tree inspections

The Parish Council has a duty of care for its trees and will ensure that they are formally inspected

Either: * at least annually, using a nine-month interval to allow observation at varying times of the year.

Or: twice a year. One inspection should take place in early Spring, prior to leaf burst (February or March), and one in late Summer when the trees are in full leaf.

The inspections will be conducted, in the first instance, by Whaddon's Tree Officer**. The Tree Officer will carry out a ground-level visual check of the trees, note and record any issues of concern and report back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will note the inspection report, authorise any remedial works to the trees or commission further detailed inspection as deemed necessary. Should expert opinion be required, the advice of a professional tree specialist will be sought. When authorising work to its trees, the Parish Council will consider the degree of perceived urgency or level of danger e.g. if the tree is in a high-usage area or near to a road or property. The Parish Council is responsible for appointing a suitable Tree Officer**, ensuring that the tree inspections have been carried out and that appropriate action has been taken if required.

Informal Observations

Whaddon Parish Council will also consider requests for works to Parish Council trees from members of the public, or Councillors, who have made informal observations about their condition. Requests from the public should be passed to the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council will then consider the request and determine an appropriate course of action, seeking additional advice as necessary, and taking into consideration the perceived degree of urgency or level of danger (as above).

Emergency Situations

Where a tree is thought to be in a dangerous condition and requiring immediate action, this should be brought to the attention of the Clerk. The Clerk is authorised to act as necessary in an emergency.

Removal of Trees

Dead, dying and diseased trees will either be removed or made safe. The Parish Council will avoid felling trees unless it is absolutely necessary, usually for Health and Safety purposes or to prevent the spread of disease and pests.

Trees leased to Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust

Whaddon Parish Council has leased its Recreation Ground to WVH&RGT for a period of 99 years. This lease includes the trees on the Recreation Ground (trees numbered 2-15 in the list in Appendix 1). Whaddon Parish Council undertakes to inspect the leased trees as part of its inspection procedures. Any issues noted will be brought to the attention of WVH&RGT together with any recommendations of action required. Although WVH&RGT will retain responsibility for its trees, the Parish Council will work closely with them, to ensure that appropriate work is carried out as necessary. Any informal observations made to the Parish Council about the condition of leased trees will be passed on to WVH&RGT.

This policy was adopted by Whaddon Parish Council on 12th March 2018

Notes:

**If, following a tree inspection, it is the Tree Officer's opinion that more frequent inspections are necessary to monitor the condition of certain trees, then additional follow-up inspections will be carried out, as required, by the Tree Officer.*

*** The Tree Officer is appointed by the Parish Council. They will be an individual with good general tree knowledge, and the ability to recognise normal and abnormal growth for the locality. They should be able to assess the approximate tree height and potential falling distance and when to request a more detailed inspection. They will also be able to recognise obviously visible signs of serious ill-health or significant structural problems which, were they to cause tree failure, could result in significant harm. The Tree Officer is not a professional tree specialist and will not normally hold specific qualifications.*

Appendix 1.

Trees owned by Whaddon Parish Council (or leased to Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust)

Tree Number	Species (if known)	Age/Class* (Y,S,M, O,V)	Location
1	Princeton Elm	Y	Verge on Church Street, adjacent to Recreation Ground
2	Sycamore	M/V	Recreation Ground**
3	Sycamore	V	Recreation Ground**
4 & 5	Off set Elm	Y	Recreation Ground**
6	Field Maple	M	Recreation Ground**
7	Walnut	Y	Recreation Ground**
8	Swedish White Beam	Y	Recreation Ground**
9&10	Field Maple	S	Recreation Ground**
11	Walnut	Y	Recreation Ground**
12	Field Maple	M	Recreation Ground**
13	Walnut	Y	Recreation Ground**
14	Red Hawthorn	S	Recreation Ground**
15	Beech	Y	Recreation Ground**
16-21	Sorbus Hybrid	Y	Verge on Church Street, adjacent to Recreation Ground
22	Sorbus Aria	Y	Grass in front of Ridgeway Close (WW1 commemorative)
23	Oak	Y	Verge at bend at junction of Church Street/Whaddon Gap (Jubilee commemorative)

***Age/Class:** Young, Semi Mature, Mature, Over-mature, Veteran

****** Leased to Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust