



Tree Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Lyminge Parish Council is responsible for the trees on its land and has a duty of care towards all people on its land, and property and persons on adjacent land. The trees must be kept in an acceptable condition and not cause unreasonable risk to persons or property.
- 1.2. Additionally, as a public authority in England, Lyminge Parish Council has a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of its policy or decision making.

2. Management of trees

- 2.1. Lyminge parish has a large number of trees, a number of which have been given TPOs.
- 2.2. The Parish Council will uphold its duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making, including with regard to tree management and management of other green or blue infrastructure.
- 2.3. The Parish Council will appoint a Tree Warden and Deputy Tree Warden
- 2.4. The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resources to maintain its trees in a healthy and safe condition.
- 2.5. The Parish council will arrange an inspection of its trees every three years, to be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist, who will provide a report detailing any work needing to be carried out and by when it should be done.
- 2.6. All work will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arboriculturist, working to the latest British Standards for tree work.
- 2.7. The Inspector's report should identify works to be carried out in the interests of public safety, and/or where it would be good arboricultural practice to ensure the long term amenity value of significant trees. Otherwise, only dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe. "Made safe" can include the creation of fenced off areas beneath dangerous trees rather than removal. Standing dead wood is an important habitat for biodiversity, so should only be removed if there is a safety issue that can not otherwise be mitigated – in some cases tree limbs may need to be removed for safety reasons but a monolith of standing dead wood could be left in place safely.
- 2.8. A programme of work will be undertaken, with emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance. This work to be done when it has least impact on wildlife. Reuse of the waste wood shall be undertaken wherever possible.
- 2.9. The Council will not fell or prune trees on Council owned land solely to alleviate problems caused by natural or seasonal phenomena, including reasons of light or fallen leaves.

3. Appointment of Tree Wardens

3.1. A tree warden and a deputy tree warden shall be appointed. Their duties shall be:

- 3.1.1. To follow guidance for the protection of trees as given by FHDC
- 3.1.2. To comment on tree works applications notified to FHDC within the given timescale.
- 3.1.3. To organise the three yearly tree inspections with a written report
- 3.1.4. To ensure that works recommended in that report are carried out to the correct standards, by a suitably qualified contractor, within the recommended timescale.
- 3.1.5. To consider tree replacement when necessary, and the planting of additional trees in appropriate areas.
- 3.1.6. To deal with any concerns about trees, raised by parishioners, which are not in the scheduled programme.
- 3.1.7. To give a written report to the Full Council when appropriate.
- 3.1.8. To respond to requests by parishioners for pruning or felling of Parish trees or others, with copy of any correspondence to the Council Planning Lead and Clerk:
 - i. To seek the opinion of an arboriculturist if necessary,
 - ii. To meet and discuss necessary work with a suitably qualified tree surgeon and to seek a quotation from them
 - iii. To present this quotation to the Council for the costs to be agreed
 - iv. To engage on the Council's behalf the tree surgeon, agreeing a date for the work
 - v. To verify to the Clerk that the work has been done satisfactorily, requesting prompt payment.

3.2. In addition, in the event of a parishioner wanting to employ their own tree surgeon, the Tree Warden or Deputy, should check that the work will be done by a qualified person who will work to comply with BS 3998 (2010). Tree work is to minimise the visual impact of the work and chip brushwood, cut branchwood (if any) into bolts 2m long and stack neatly away from the public route, making a log pile.

Version	Source	Adopted
1.0	LPC	Oct 2018
1.1	LPC	29 March 2023