



## Tree Risk Management Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy sets out Harbury Parish Council's approach to the management of tree-related risk on land which is owned by the council. The aim is to balance public safety with environmental stewardship, sustainability, and the conservation of Harbury's green infrastructure.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all trees on land owned by Harbury Parish Council, including but not limited to:

- Village greens and open spaces
- Playing fields & children's play areas
- Cemetery

### 3. Objectives

- To reduce the risk of injury or damage from tree failure to an acceptable level
- To maintain and enhance the amenity, ecological, and environmental value of trees
- To ensure legal and insurance compliance
- To establish clear responsibilities and inspection regimes

### 4. Legal Context

Harbury Parish Council recognises its duty of care under:

- Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 & 1984
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Common law duty of care
- Highways Act 1980 (if trees are adjacent to highways)

### 5. Tree Risk Management Strategy

#### 5.1. Inspection Regime

- All surveys and inspections will be conducted by a suitably qualified arborist.
- A full survey of all the trees owned by the parish council will be undertaken every 5 years which will detail recommended works and the timescale for completing those works in order of priority:
  - Critical - Work recommended as soon as possible
  - High risk - Work recommended within 6 months
  - Medium risk - Work recommended within 18 months
  - Low risk - Work recommended within 36 months
- The survey will also identify a recommended inspection frequency for individual trees.

- An annual inspection will be carried out of all those trees with a recommended inspection frequency of 12 months.
- Trees showing signs of defect in between surveys and inspections, or reported by the public, will be inspected promptly, regardless of schedule.

### 5.3. Recording & Monitoring

- All inspections and interventions will be recorded.
- Records will include tree location, species, condition, risk assessment, and recommended actions.

### 5.4. Intervention & Maintenance

- Works will be prioritised according to risk level and completed in a timely manner.
- The council supports minimal intervention where safe to do so, favouring habitat retention where appropriate.
- Emergency works will be arranged promptly in response to fallen trees or hazardous conditions.

## 6. Tree Planting and Replacement

- The council will replace trees where necessary and encourage native species.
- Consideration will be given to biodiversity, landscape value, and climate resilience.
- The community may be consulted on significant planting schemes.

## 7. Public Reporting

- The public is encouraged to report concerns about tree safety to the parish clerk.
- All reports will be investigated and logged.

## 8. Responsibilities

- **Parish Clerk:** Oversees implementation of the policy and maintains records.
- **Tree Contractors / Inspectors:** Conduct inspections and maintenance.
- **Council Members:** Approve budgets and tree-related decisions.

## 9. Review

This policy will be reviewed **every four years** or sooner in response to:

- Significant changes in legal duties or best practice.
- Tree-related incidents.
- Major developments in the parish affecting tree stock.