

# Bradpole Parish Council

## TREE POLICY

### **Our policy for the management of trees owned and administered by Bradpole Parish Council.**

The fundamentals of English Common Law and statute Law is that land/tree owners have a duty of care to residents, visitors, passers-by and also trespassers when on their land.

Queries about trees that belong to Bradpole Parish Council should be made to the Parish Clerk by telephone or email: [telephone 01308 422140](tel:01308422140) or email: [bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)

Trees located within the public highway, adjacent to the roadside verges or road are usually the responsibility of Dorset County Council.

Our trees help to provide a variety to our landscape and provide us with sound reduction, filter air and water absorption.

We aim to preserve our trees and generate a variable landscape for the future.

### **Bradpole Parish Council owned trees will have the following works applied to them.**

- Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees;
- Remove dangerous and hazardous branches.

The Councils policy is to inspect our trees on an annual basis by a recognised tree surgeon, but should works as stated be required members of the public are asked to contact The Parish Clerk.

Permission will be sought prior to any works being carried out on private land by the Parish Council Contractors.

### **Bradpole Parish Council will not carry out works to Council owned trees in the following circumstances.**

#### **We have no obligation to carry out the following tree works:**

- Cut back any branches overhanging private property.
- Remove branches or top trees to increase daylight or decrease height relating to property.
- Remove trees or parts of to prevent leaves falling.
- Remove parts of trees affecting views or affecting TV reception.
- Cut back or remove roots from drains or structure, unless it is clearly demonstrated to be a principle risk to those structures.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent possible damage by roots.
- Remove possible branches that are nearly touching buildings, roofs, walls, fences, or other parts of the structure.
- Remove or cut back branches to protect access from wild life – birds, squirrels etc.

### **Works that may be carried out by members of the public.**

Common Law – a property owner can cut back branches overhanging the boundary of their property. Sense should prevail with the branches removed, the removal will be the responsibility of the property owner, no materials are to be thrown over the boundary as this could be classed as fly tipping. All expenses are the resident's responsibility. Bradpole Parish Council would normally have no objection to property owners carrying out tree works or employing a Contractor, at their own expense, provided that.

- Access is not gained onto neighbouring land or to a tree/trees within that land. If access is required the permission of Bradpole Parish Council must be sought.
- If the trees are in a public community area and access is required to carry out pruning you will require written permission before carrying out this work from the agency responsible for that community area.
- The tree is not situated in a Conservation area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

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- Any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon.
- For tree pruning work, whoever does the work, it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendation for Tree Work 3998:1989.
- The property owner notifies Bradpole Parish Council (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

**Bradpole Parish Council does not carry out works to privately owned Trees.**

### **Removal of Trees in Bradpole Civil Parish**

The felling of trees will be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Felling of trees is usually for health and safety purposes, or to prevent the spread of pests or disease. Bradpole Parish Council reserves the right to fell trees to prevent overcrowding, to improve habitats, to restore landscapes, in line with site management, or to remove a tree that has detrimental impact to amenities and appearance of a site.

### **Emergency Procedures – IF**

- There is an Imminent danger to a person or property from a tree on land owned by the Parish Council.
- A fallen tree from land owned by the Parish Council is blocking a road.

**Telephone Parish Clerk or Dorset Council 01308 422140 (PC) or 1305 221000 (DCC)**

**Maintenance pruning for shrubs will be considered in May and November each year and work carried out as appropriate.**

The content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet changing circumstances.

Adopted by Bradpole Parish Council 6 Sept 2018