

Thornham Parish Council

Tree Risk Management Strategy

1. Introduction

This strategy outlines the Parish Council's approach to managing the risks associated with trees under its ownership or management. The purpose is to ensure public safety, maintain tree health, and fulfil the Council's legal responsibilities in an effective and proportionate manner.

2. Tree Risk Management Policy

The Parish Council recognises its duty of care to the public and is committed to managing its tree stock responsibly. The Council aims to:

- Prevent injury or damage resulting from tree failures.
- Maintain the health and amenity value of trees.
- Comply with legal obligations including the Occupiers' Liability Acts and Health and Safety at Work Act.

Tree risk will be managed through regular monitoring, timely maintenance, and appropriate professional advice, balancing risk with the natural value trees provide.

3. Tree Inspections and Monitoring

3.1 Routine Inspections by the Clerk

- The Parish Clerk will carry out a visual inspection of all Council-managed trees once every three months.
- Additional inspections will be conducted following high winds or severe weather events.
- The purpose of these inspections is to identify any visible signs of damage, disease, instability, or potential risk.
- Any concerns or observations from these inspections will be recorded and reported to the Council, and where necessary, acted upon.

3.2 Professional Arborist Inspections

- A qualified arborist will carry out a comprehensive inspection of the Council's tree stock every three years.
- This inspection will include a detailed assessment of tree health, structure, and risk potential.
- Should any concerns be raised during the Clerk's routine inspections, an earlier arborist inspection may be commissioned.

4. Maintenance and Remedial Work

- Any recommended work arising from inspections will be prioritised and actioned based on the level of risk identified.
- Emergency work to address immediate risks will be carried out as soon as practicable.

- Routine and preventative maintenance will be scheduled to sustain tree health and reduce future risks.

5. Record Keeping

- All inspection reports, observations, and maintenance actions will be documented and kept on file by the Clerk.
- Records will include the date of inspection, location of trees assessed, observations made, and actions taken.

6. Review of Policy

- This Tree Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident or change in guidance.
- Amendments will be approved by the Parish Council.

Dated : 25th June 2025