

## TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out how Coddensham Parish Council will take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety management reflecting that:

- The overall risk to humans from trees is extremely low.
- Trees provide many benefits of landscape, biodiversity, amenity, climate, economic and wellbeing.
- The benefits above generally increase with age and size as does the associated risk.
- Trees are living organisms that naturally lose branches or fall.
- A landowner on which a tree stands has responsibility for the health and safety of those on or near the land and has potential liabilities arising from a falling tree or branch.

### 2. HOLDING

Coddensham Parish Council owns three areas of land on which trees are growing. These are the triangular Three Cocked Hat formed at the junction of the roads B1078 and Sandy Lane and the pocket parks Broom Hill and Mill Hill. The Parish Council is also responsible for the trees in the closed churchyard.

### 3. OWNERSHIP/CONTROL

The Parish Council has overall control of management. Day-to-day organising is carried out by the Parish Council clerk. An external Arboricultural consultant will be engaged to advise on tree safety issues.

### 4. TREE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

The Parish Council employs an Arboricultural consultant to survey and report on the condition of the trees on the land it is responsible for.

The four areas are classified into different zones according to risk.

**High Risk.** Three Cocked Hat due to daily traffic density. Formal inspection every 2 years.

**Low Risk.** Broom Hill, Mill Hill, Closed churchyard. Due to infrequency of access .Formal inspection every 4 years.

**Additional Precautions.** Following incidences of exceptionally high winds ( as defined by Met Office weather warnings) the Parish Council will nominate a competent layperson to visually check the trees on the Three Cocked Hat and those adjacent to the public rights of way for damage.

**Prioritising Work.** Any necessary tree surgery will be carried out within the time limit recommended by the Arboricultural consultant.

**Records.** Reports of formal inspections and subsequent works are kept by the PC clerk.

