HALLOW PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Clerk: Julia Hixson

Tree Management Policy – Public Summary

Hallow Parish Council (2026–2031)

Hallow Parish Council is responsible for the care and management of trees on land it owns or manages. These include trees at **Holly Bank, the Field, the Playground, the Playing Field, public footpaths and the Village Green**.

This summary explains, in plain language, how and why the Council manages trees.

Why the Council Manages Trees

Trees are an important part of Hallow's landscape, heritage and wildlife. The Council manages trees to:

- Keep residents and visitors safe
- Protect the health and long-term future of trees
- Support wildlife and biodiversity
- Meet its legal duties under English law

Safety and Inspections

- Trees are inspected on a regular, risk-based basis.
- Trees near higher-risk areas (such as playgrounds, footpaths and the village green) are inspected annually.
- Trees in lower-risk locations are inspected at least every two years.
- Additional checks may take place after storms or severe weather.

The Council takes reasonable and proportionate action where a tree presents a safety risk.

Tree Works and Pruning

- Tree work is only carried out when necessary for safety, health or access.
- All work follows recognised standards (BS3998).
- Work is carried out by qualified and insured tree contractors.
- The Council avoids unnecessary or excessive pruning.

Issues such as falling leaves, shade or seasonal debris are a normal part of living near trees and do not usually justify tree work.

Ancient and Important Trees

- Ancient and veteran trees, including ancient oaks, are treated as special and irreplaceable.
- These trees are managed using a minimum-intervention approach.
- Specialist advice is sought before any work is carried out.
- Deadwood is retained where safe, as it provides valuable wildlife habitat.

Wildlife and the Environment

- Tree work avoids the bird nesting season (March–August) wherever possible.
- Checks are made for protected species, such as bats.

- Biodiversity and habitat value are considered in all decisions.

Tree Planting and Replacement

- Trees removed for safety or health reasons may be replaced where appropriate.
- New trees are chosen to suit the location, with a preference for native or climate-resilient species.

Requests and Concerns

- Residents can raise concerns or requests about Parish trees via the **Parish Clerk**.
- All requests are considered against the Council's Tree Management Policy.
- The Council balances individual concerns with safety, environmental value and available resources.

Review of the Policy

- The Tree Management Policy runs from **2026 to 2031**.
- It will be reviewed at least every five years, or sooner if required by changes in legislation or circumstances.

For more information or to report a concern, please contact **Hallow Parish Council via the Parish Clerk**.

Adopted January 19th 2026

Signed: Hazel Kemshall (Chair)

Date for review: January 2029