# STRETTON ON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL

# Tree Management and Maintenance Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

1.2 Any queries on trees belonging to Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council should be made to the Parish Clerk.

1.3 Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council is not the owner of all trees with the village, some are owned privately or fall within the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council or Rugby Borough Council.

2. Work

2.1 The Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council will ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Parish Council. These inspections will be carried out on a 3 yearly basis, unless the need arises for more frequent inspections as advised by the tree surgeon.

2.2 The last full tree survey was carried out in April 2021 by Tree Safe Ltd and subsequent work undertaken.

2.3 The council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

2.4 The Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council will request that any tree surgeon carrying out work on trees on Council owned land should provide the Council with a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and that they adhere to the appropriate standards.

2.5 Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that any bunting or lights which are hung in the trees for decoration will not do irreversible or permanent damage to the tree.

2.6 Whilst maintaining its trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on wildlife will be minimal. This is in line with Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council Biodiversity Policy.

2.7 Whilst maintaining its trees Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council will:

- Remove dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs

2.8 Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council has no obligation to carry out the following tree works:
• Cut back branches overhanging private property.
• 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease height in relation to property.
• Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.
• Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris.
• Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
• Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures. • Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc.
• Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

2.9 The Council will give consideration to any complaints regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account its tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

2.10 If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

3. Carrying out tree works and Pruning Guidance for individuals

3.1 In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense, provided that:
• Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land; if access to our land or to a tree on that land is required, our permission must be sought.
• The tree is not situated in a Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
• 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 Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:1989.
• The property owner notifies us (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

4. Location of Tree

4.1 Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council owns and maintains trees in the following locations:-

Plott Lane – The Slangs

Plott Lane – The Orchard

Plott Lane – The Platinum Plott

Plott Lane – Recreation Ground

Plott Lane - Allotments

Squires Rd – Amenities Space

Brookside – Village Green

Fosse Way – Recreation Ground

5. New Planting

5.1 Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council may wish to plant additional trees in the future on land which it owns. Before it obtains a tree, it will take professional advice to ensure that it will thrive in the selected location and not have a negative impact on the wildlife or horticulture already living in the area.

5.2. If a tree should need to be removed under the advice of a tree surgeon Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council will endeavour to plant a similar species in the same location or another location.