

Homersfield Parish Council

CHURCH WOOD POLICY

CHURCH WOOD AIMS

- To maintain and improve the woodland habitat
- To encourage people to appreciate, value, and enjoy the natural environment
- To help improve people's mental well-being
- To provide opportunities for people to get involved

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity or for safety reasons.

We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our wood is managed to make it accessible and welcoming.

The long-term vision for our woodland is to restore it to predominantly native species.

TREE INSPECTIONS

The trees in the wood will be visually inspected by a qualified arboriculturist every eighteen months and works undertaken by qualified contractors. The Tree warden also conducts his own routine visual assessment for dead branches, plus additional checks will be carried out after periods of bad weather to identify damaged trees. The Parish Clerk retains records of the safety checks. If urgent works to trees are required due to an imminent health and safety risk then the Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council can authorise works.

REQUEST FOR BENCHES/PLAQUES/STRUCTURES/OTHER ADDITIONS

Any requests must be submitted to the Parish Clerk (for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting). Without such a request the Parish Council retains the right to ask for the item to be removed or, if necessary, to remove it. Whenever an item is approved, maintenance of the item needs to be agreed.

All planting of trees/wild flowers etc must be approved by the Tree Warden.

VISITORS

Visitors are encouraged to remain on the pathways, take rubbish home and clear up after pets.

No fires/BBQs are permitted except a controlled fire led by the Tree Warden at an appropriate time and place.

Any anti-social behaviour will be reported to the Suffolk Police.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

A risk assessment will be completed by the Tree Warden before any volunteer work takes place and a briefing given as appropriate. A first aid kit is available in the church.

Volunteers will need to read and complete the Individual Responsibilities sheet annually.

All work undertaken will comply with the Chainsaw and Strimmer policies.

BUDGETING AND PLANNING AHEAD

Church Wood will be an agenda item at every Parish Council meeting and may require occasional additional meetings with the Tree Warden and interested volunteers.